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Genscher seeks new Third World Policy

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Foreign Minister Genscher, dissatisfied with Third World ties, suggested in a speech to the United Nations Association in Bonn how relations might be improved. But the feeble response indicates that Third World affairs are still largely regarded as of secondary importance in West Germany.

This does not make Herr Genscher's work in a difficult sector any easier. He needs backing, firstly, one might have thought, from the Bonn government.

But Chancellor Schmidt is not particularly interested in the Third World, and on many international bodies Bonn comes in for repeated, vituperative criticism from Third World delegates, even though it does much for their countries and peoples.

Helmut Schmidt is no longer prepared to take this criticism without demur. Economic cooperation, he says, must not be one-way traffic; the donar has a right to expect something in return.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher doubtless agrees, but reaches different conclusions. The Chancellor is only prepared to grant concessions individually after lengthy, tough negotiations. The Foreign Minister has doubts over this mainly responsive strategy.

He would prefer to go on the offensive, including over conference agenda issues which, as he put it in his Bonn speech, "require contributions by the developing countries themselves."

Counter-demands can only be levelled at the Third World with any chance of success, he says, if we "on our part do what is necessary to the full extent."

He did not go into what was necessary or the full extent, but it may be assumed Herr Genscher would be prepared to meet the developing countries half-way in certain circumstances.

Bonn would make concessions, he might consider arguing, if the other side was prepared to compromise, or at least to talk, on isssues that interest West Germany.

Bearing in mind progress so far at the North-South talks, especially the part Bonn has played, any attempt at changing long-term objectives would seem to make sense.

Bonn has certainly made scant headway with its present strategy. It began by saying no to most Third World demands, but over the years went on to concede every point as negotiations progressed.

This is poor policy, especially when in the final analysis, nothing is gained in return for the concessions. It might be better to do what is necessary to the full extent, so as to negotiate something in return.

This is certainly what other Western countries have in mind, and they are frequently amazed at the unyielding outlook of West German delegates.

On several occasions the Federal Republic has made a lone stand on issues its friends have long abandoned as untenable. Bonn is thus the butt of most Third World criticism at international conferences.

But instead of being angry about allegedly ungrateful developing countries, Bonn might self-critically ask where it has gone wrong.

On more than one occasion the Federal Republic has been out on a limb, not the place to be in the long term.

Too many cooks spoil the broth, the saying goes. Does the same apply to *Bonn's policy towards the Third World?* Plenty of people have a say: the Economic Affairs Minister, the Economic Cooperation Minister, the Finance Minister and many more.

It is also no secret that two ministries most frequently associated with Third World affairs, the Economic Affairs and Foreign Affairs ministries, are often at loggerheads.

Both are headed by Free Democrats, the smaller party in the Bonn coalition, so Social Democrat Helmut Schmidt is not in much of a position to knock their heads together.

As an economist by training, Herr Schmidt probably leans towards the view held by Economic Affairs Minister Lambsdorff, who sees the danger of intervention and controls ensuing from many Third World demands.

Foreign Minister Genscher, the FDP leader, has on his travels been at the receiving end of much displeasure from the developing countries. He is alarmed by the rate at which Bonn is growing unpopular overseas.

He reckons Third World policy is no less important than ties with either East *or West. It is, moreover, more than mere* development policy, seen as the useful distribution of West German capital aid and technical assistance.

Third World policy, as he sees it, is dealing with demands for changes in the international order. In the North-South dialogue the Third World is both partner and opponent.

Bonn must lend a hand; it must also look after its own interests. It has so far failed to find the right blend of cooperation and confrontation.

Herr Genscher is suffering as a result, and in his Bonn speech called in his own circumspect way for a change of course.

The Cabinet, political parties and public opinion may not be prepared to agree immediately, but they ought to give him a hearing.

... Good relations with the Third World are in the long-term national interest.

Klaus Natorp

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 November 1978)



Norwegian visitor

Norwegian Prime Minister Advar Nordli with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Hamburg for talks on currency problems and increased industrial cooperation between Norway and the Federal Republic of Germany. (Photo: dpa)

Welcome for Wise Men's forecast

Economic growth of between three-and-a-half and four per cent, inflation at two-and-a-half per cent and fewer than a million unemployed are forecast in the 23 November report by the advisory council to the Economic Affairs Ministry, a group usually known as the Five Wise Men.

The forecast on unemployment in 1979 will mean a decline of about 100,000 in the number of jobless. Wage increases negotiated by the two sides of industry are expected to be at about this year's level.

Government and industry have welcomed and widely agreed with the report's conclusions. Economic Affairs Minister Lambsdorff said they had "a high degree of probability."

He agreed with his economic advisers that the climate of investment was still uneasy and could only gradually be improved. The Five Wise Men were right to emphasise the importance of wages policy and money policy as followed by the Bundesbank.

Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer said the report took an objective, balanced view of Bonn's financial policies.

BDI, the Confederation of West German Industry, said it agreed in principle with the report. There were signs of an economic upturn in the offing, although a self-supporting upswing was not yet in sight.

The trade union confederation, DGB, regretted that there was no mention of prospects of a return to full employment.

Heinz Murmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 November 1978)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Terrorist release shows Belgrade wanted swap

Now that Yugoslavia has released the four West German terrorists for whose extradition Bonn had applied, there can no longer be any doubt that Belgrade never intended anything other than a trade.

"You hand over my terrorists and I will return yours," the Yugoslavs insisted. In return for the extradition of Brigitte Mohnhaupt, Sieglinde Hofmann, Peter Boock and Rolf Clemens Wagner, Belgrade expected Bonn to hand over twice as many Croatian exiles, and preferably first.

The Croatians, all wanted in Yugoslavia for alleged crimes against the state, had to be part of a deal. The Yugoslavs were not going to hand over the four Germans unless they could be sure the West German authorities would return the compliment before long.

In September, the Bonn government ruled against extraditing Croatian exile leader Stjepan Bilandzic. Any swap had always been a doubtful starter. From this point it was clearly not on.

Bilandzic was not only the best-known of the eight Croatians, only his extradition had been ruled permissible by a German court.

It would be wrong, however, to regard the release of the four Germans, who left Yugoslavia for an undisclosed destination, as a mere act of vengeance.

It would no doubt be equally wrong to insinuate that Belgrade has become an accomplice of international terrorism. Complicity presupposes intentional cooperation with a common purpose.

No-one would seriously argue that Yugoslavia is interested in promoting fresh outbreaks of terrorism, either in West Germany or elsewhere in Western Europe.

From the Yugoslav point of view, the release of the four West Germans was undertaken simply because the terms by which a deal might have been done no longer existed.

Bonn having failed to deliver the goods, Belgrade felt it was no longer oblige to honour its part of the deal.

This is not to approve of Yugoslavia's behaviour. The release of the four, especially of Brigitte Mohnhaupt, who is assumed to have taken over as leader of the Red Army Faction (or RAF), is a serious setback in the fight against terrorism, which is hard enough work as it is.

Rumour has it that the Yugoslav authorities have both allowed the four to fly to a country well-known for harbouring terrorist suspects and issued them with identity documents under false names.

These rumours need not be true. It will be difficult enough in any case to recapture the terrorists before they have got up to fresh mischief.

This latest case of what amounts to aiding and abetting terrorists lends weight to the saying that undertakings to combat international terrorism become mere scraps of paper the moment national interests are involved.

This is why the United Nations has yet to get beyond an attempt to define terrorism. Many Third World countries are afraid that national liberation movements might be so classified.

Liberation movements are, of course, underground organisations dedicated to the overthrow by violent means of late colonial regimes.

Now that the Tito era is drawing to its close, Yugoslav centralists may well believe that political and criminal activity by Croatian exile organisations and their fanatical leaders in West Germany is a serious threat to the unity of their multiracial country.

It is pointless to speculate whether the Yugoslav authorities had other, more ominous aims when they replied to the failure of the swap deal by releasing the four West German terrorists.

There is even a sense in which Western countries, governed constitutionally and democratically, maintain safeguards against the absolute primacy of the struggle against terrorism, albeit for reasons other than Belgrade's.

Take Rolf Pohle, the Baader-Meinhof group's arms buyer who was one of the terrorists released in exchange for abducted West Berlin CDU leader Peter Lorenz in 1975 and later arrested in Greece.

The Greek supreme court took weeks to rule on whether the offences for which Pohl still had prison sentences to serve out in West Germany were political, in which case extradition need not apply.

Klaus Croissant, the Stuttgart lawyer who was a Baader-Meinhof defence counsel before applying for political asylum in France last year, was extradited to Germany by a Paris court of appeal in autumn 1977 subject to strict provisos.

In Germany he was liable to prosecution on charges connected with his public relations work on the group's behalf, such as arranging an interview with *Der Spiegel*, the Hamburg newsweekly, and for aiding a hunger strike by Baader-Meinhof detainees.

Both would have been major charges against him, but proceedings on both counts are no longer possible because neither are offences under French law, and Croissant was handed over on condition that no charges would be preferred.

The Dutch legal authorities made an even more far-reaching proviso before allowing the extradition of Knut Folkerts, who was serving a prison term in Holland for murdering a Dutch policeman.

The court ruled that charges must not be preferred in connection with the abduction of employers' leader Hanns-Martin Schleyer because this had been a politically-motivated offence.

Since the extradition treaty between West Germany and Holland excluded political offences, he must only be tried for other breaches of the law.

Yugoslavia, however, made no mention of political circumstances, arguing merely that the evidence submitted by Bonn was insufficient.

This was a reply in kind to the argument made out by Bonn in the Bilandzic case, and possibly just as well. Debate on whether Croatian exiles who organise terrorist attacks on Yugoslavia from West Germany can be regarded as on a par with West German terrorists would be unlikely to lead to political, let alone legal, agreement.

Yet extradition agreements between countries with irreconcilable political systems are not necessarily a waste of time, they are merely limited in effect.

A common interest will usually prevail in combating narcotics offences, arms smuggling, theft, robbery and "common" murder.

Where politically-motivated terrorism is concerned, agreement can only be reached from case to case, if at all.

So it would be pointless to urge Bonn to impose diplomatic sanctions on Belgrade as a result of the Yugoslav decision. Bonn did well to observe restraint during the months when extradition proceedings were sub judice in both countries.

Bonn chose to rule that Bilandzic would not be handed over to the Yugoslav authorities. It did so before the Federal Constitutional Court had dealt with the appeal, but there can be little doubt that Karlsruhe would have agreed.

The Bonn government thus convincingly demonstrated its commitment to constitutional principles. Belgrade will have to realise this is the case, and there are signs that the Yugoslavs are taking the point.

Bonn's ambassador in Belgrade has been recalled for consultations, but not by way of a diplomatic affront. His recall was strictly to try and find out more about the circumstances of the release and the terrorists's destination.

Hans Schueler

(Die Zeit, 24 November 1978)

Europarliament: the reality finally dawns

EEC heads of government are clearly no longer entirely happy at the thought of the first direct elections to the European Parliament next June.

Chancellor Schmidt knew what he was doing when he told foreign correspondents in Bonn that the new parliament would have to establish greater authority.

A wave of counter-declarations from Paris and comments from elsewhere indicates that the fundamental issue of European elections has finally struck home, 30 years after it was first mentioned.

M. Giscard d'Estaing first suggested direct elections at the Paris EEC summit in 1974, and he cannot have envisaged 180 million Common Market voters electing 410 MPs merely to rubber-stamp decisions taken by the Council of Ministers.

Voters would realise only too clearly that their elected representatives had no say in anything.

Since then, however, M. Chirac, who as French Prime Minister attended the 1974 summit, has veered to the extreme right as leader of the Gaullist party.

He is under pressure from extremists such as former Premier Michel Debré and keen to create an image as a future presidential candidate in opposition to M. Giscard d'Estaing.

So Jacques Chirac is calling for EEC heads of government to stipulate what the European Parliament may discuss.

Luxembourg Premier Gaston Thorn, a long-standing advocate of European integration, has aired his views on radio.

Seven of the Nine, he says, feel a directly-elected European Parliament must have greater rights than its predecessor, whose 189 members are nominated by national parliaments.

It must not usurp extra rights, however. They must be vested in it by the members of the European Community.

The two Common Market countries where there is domestic opposition to this idea are, of course, Britain and France, the oldest nation states.

The psychological distance of the British from the Common Market may be one reason why Herr Schmidt's suggestion failed to create much of a stir over the Channel.

Giscard and premier Raymond Barre, a former EEC commissioner, have both indicated that Helmut Schmidt, Gaston Thorn and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing have the same aim in view.

All want the directly-elected European Parliament to gain wider powers as soon as possible.

Once there is a European Confederation the parliament must have wider powers, but not beforehand, says M. Giscard d'Estaing.

But since the EEC already is a European confederation, one can but wonder what progress is awaited before it will officially be admitted to be one.

Wider powers can only be granted with the approval of member-countries, says M. Barre. But if the French National Assembly were to play awkward, given that it is controlled by a majority of Gaullists, Communists and Socialists, the French constitution provides for a referendum if necessary.

Market research shows the French public to be more pro-EEC than party politics would lead one to assume, so the referendum would probably endorse wider powers for the European Parliament.

In Britain they would probably be endorsed more readily at Westminster than in a referendum, the first of which surprisingly found in favour of staying in the EEC.

So the prospects of wider powers for the European Parliament are not too bad once it is elected and starts making intelligent bids to make itself felt.

But is parliamentary democracy true democracy? This is a question hotly disputed by young people in the two most

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■ INTRA-GERMAN AFFAIRS

New Berlin treaty brings cooperation hopes

Bonn will have to pay DM1.39 billion for the improvement of road and water routes to and from West Berlin over the next years under a new treaty with the GDR. Of this, DM1.2 billion has been set aside for the new North Autobahn through the GDR, linking Hamburg and West Berlin. A further item is the new flat rate transit fee for the use of roads and waterways. Bonn will pay an annual DM525 million until 1989.

DIE ZEIT

The German-German détente project, initiated by Willy Brandt in Erfurt and Kassel eight years ago, has made good progress.

All East-West agreements, including those between Bonn and Moscow or Bonn and Warsaw, are interlinked.

The Basic Treaty clearly shows which arrangements between the two German states are necessary and feasible. But only the Four Power Berlin Agreement enabled Bonn to conclude treaties in favour of West Berlin with the GDR and other East bloc countries.

The Berlin agreement and the Basic Treaty have been in effect for six years – long enough to achieve considerable progress.

There are still many desirable arrangements, but they require patience, coupled with determination on fundamental principles and willingness to compromise on details.

Not only clever negotiating tactics lead to success; it also requires a calm political situation and considerable self-confidence on the part of all parties.

If the Bonn government were to react with political migraine to every atmospheric disturbance, or if there were really the infighting in the East Berlin Politbureau frequently claimed by the Western press, the agreement signed in East Berlin last week would never have materialised.

Though there were many signs that the GDR leadership was initially uncertain as to its negotiating scope, no-one could be sure of this.

Before the talks began, nobody in Bonn would have ventured to predict their outcome.

The government was aware of considerable difficulties and opposition. But once the East Berlin talks began progress was surprisingly swift — apart from some bickering over details.

This means a fundamental decision on principles must have been made in East Berlin and Moscow, aiming at maximum relaxation of relations with the Federal Republic of Germany.

Even Eastern protests against the term as Bundesrat President of Berlin's Mayor Dietrich Stobbe changed nothing.

The re-opening of the Teltow Canal in Berlin shows the extent to which East Berlin was prepared to compromise, considering the intricacies of this issue on which no solution seemed possible in the long preliminary talks between the West Berlin Senate and the GDR.

It is hard to guess the reasons for this conciliatory attitude. Certainly the large amount of foreign exchange which will flow into GDR coffers as a result of the package cannot be the only reason. The GDR is not a country to abandon positions and principles for money alone.

There must have been another issue involved that had priority: the GDR's and the Soviet Union's wish for long-term fruitful cooperation with Bonn.

Both Eastern governments hope that this will contribute greatly towards their ambitious economic objectives. By increasing the standard of living they hope to convince the public of the advantages of socialism.

Minister for All-German Affairs Egon Franke caused some confusion in the efforts to establish the motives of the other side. Only two days before the signing of the agreement, he decried the irresponsible and criminal actions of commercial escape organisations.

His complaint was neither unjustified nor new. But the timing gave rise to the wrong suspicion that (as a bonus, so to speak) Bonn had promised to take action against these organisations to expedite the signing of the agreement.

Minister Franke scheduled a press conference to inform the public prematurely of the result of the talks. When the Chanceller's Office stopped him, he reported on the activities of a Bonn group, in existence for some time, whose objective it is to stop the abuse of transit routes.

Only a short while ago, two members of the East Berlin Politbureau, Paul Verner and Erich Mielke, cited "efforts to normalise relations between the two German states" as the most important element of GDR policy.

Bonn still has a long list of wishes here, including improvements in Berlin traffic by automobile and train, the inclusion of West Berlin in an electricity and gas grid and the easing of travel to the Federal Republic.

Some of these objectives can certainly be achieved with patience and money unless relations deteriorate. But the GDR leadership cannot act against its own principles. Therefore, those expecting too much (for instance, a reduction of the age at which East Germans may travel to the West) will be sorely disappointed.

Joachim Nawrocki

(Die Zeit, 24 November 1978)

Berlin escape gangs 'threat to transit'

Commercial escape organisations for East Germans wanting to cross into West Germany charge the escapees or their friends in the Federal Republic of Germany DM120,000 per head.

Despite the steep price the escape organisations are so badly organised that half their guides and clients end up in GDR jails.

The trade in other people's misery also endangers the transit routes between Berlin and the Federal Republic.

In an interview, All-German Affairs Minister Egon Franke said the commercial escape organisations jeopardised the routes to and from the divided city used by 1.5 million people and 60,000 lorries every month.

Since both the Western powers and the Soviet Union are pressing for the honouring of Bonn's commitments in the transit agreement, Herr Franke wants to rally public support for action against the infringements of the law committed by the escape firms.

Of the orginal 26 "escape gangs," as they are called in the GDR, five are left. Most members are part of the West Berlin drug scene, many are in debt, and they are generally dubious characters.

Many of the guides believe their leaders' promises that they will be bought free by the Bonn government if they get caught, says Fritz Wilke, former head of the legal department at Bonn's permanent mission in East Berlin. Herr Wilke should know since he has visited many of the guides in East Berlin jails.

The methods used by the organisations are repugnant. Guides are usually recruited through advertisements. Then the organisation approaches West German doctors prepared to finance the escape of a GDR colleague. They are nudged into agreeing by being told that the cost is tax deductible (which is untrue, as Herr Franke pointed out).

Other gang members use the names of lawyers, usually those who have served as mediators in refugee affairs, passing themselves off as their staff members to collect between DM80,000 and DM120,000 for escapes from clients.

In cases where a guide after having had his freedom from a GDR prison bought by the Bonn government wants to tell his story to the press, as happened in the case of Klaus-Dieter Precht, he receives a phone call telling him: "Listen, you swine, you'll be knocked off if you go on with it."

Herr Franke said nothing about court proceedings against the commercial exploitation, but mentioned a Baden-Württemberg case against what he called a "specialist in tax deductibles."

The fact that of the 26 organisations mentioned by the GDR only five are still active is not due to West German counter-measures but to infiltration by members of the East German security service.

Even the frequently-mentioned Mierendorff Gang (turnover one million deutschemarks according to its boss) only had to leave West Berlin when the US authorities found out that it tried to bribe members of the US forces.

Herr Franke illustrated the consequences of this type of escape assistance with a few examples.

Case number one: Charlotte Nemack, mother of nine children, was told by members of an escape organisation that she would be in serious trouble if she did not meet her hire-purchase instalments.

Since she had no money, she allowed herself to be pressed into becoming a guide, providing GDR citizens with forged passports and escorting them out of the country via the transit routes. She was arrested with three other guides and imprisoned. Her children have been without a mother for the past two-and-a-half years.

Case number two: Michael Brien, 20, an automobile mechanic, was recruited for a "furniture transport" from Hamburg to Berlin. On the way back an escapee was hidden in a specially built compartment in the sealed van.

Brien knew nothing about the passenger and was arrested by the GDR border police, together with two friends who had gone along for the ride. They were sentenced to two-and-a-half to three years jail.

Case number three: When tipped-off border policemen checked the boot of guide Ingolf Schieke's car, they not only found two adult escapees but also the body of a six-month-old baby who had died of an overdose of Valium, administered by the guide to keep it quiet.

Schieke himself had mainlined heroin to give himself courage. He was sentenced to eight years and narcotics treatment.

The number of people arrested or thoroughly checked on transit routes is relatively low. From June 1972 to the end of October 1978, only 862 of the 90 million travellers were arrested — two-thirds for assisting escapees. Of these, 750 were sentenced, 572 having meanwhile been released.

The main reason for Bonn's attitude was the sudden increase of vehicles checks, permitted only in cases of strong suspicion under the terms of the transit agreement.

In January 1978, the number of checks, previously averaging between 30 and 40 a month, rose to 277.

Only following a visit to East Berlin by State Minister Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski did the number of checks drop, reaching today's 20 a month.

But the sudden increase at the beginning of the year signalled the dangers should the activities of commercial escape organisations be tolerated.

The type of client approached by the escape organisations has changed in the past few years, as have escape methods.

The boot of a car has has given way to sealed vans, violating the relevant agreements.

The organisations also no longer concentrate on doctors and technicians, the emphasis now being on apolitical GDR citizens who want to join relatives in the West.

Although the GDR has loosened up somewhat on exit visas, the procedure is still too slow and many do not qualify.

Of course, Herr Franke's attack on commercial escape organisations in no way changes the Bonn government's fundamental attitude towards these gangs. It is backed by a treaty, of which the GFR is a signatory, stipulating that "everybody must be at liberty to leave any country, including his own."

Even though this treaty makes certain provisions for national restrictions of human rights, Bonn is still bound by its Constitutional Court rulings, according to which escape assistance, including the commercial variety, is only punishable if the fee demanded is conspicuously disproportionate to the services rendered.

Even so, certain infringements of the law tied up with the business obviously must be punishable, among them forgery, fraud, extortion and blackmail.

Much still remains to be done, primarily by the Land governments.

The five sessions of the Inter-Minis-

Continued on page 5

■ HOME AFFAIRS

The past and the presidency – an unresolved question

Theodor Heuss, then a Reichstag MP, voted in favour of Hitler's Emergency Powers Act in 1933, the law which did away with important parts or the Weimar constitution.

Heuss was 49 at the time, a respected Liberal and a true patriot. As a passionate democrat with views worlds apart from those of the Nazis, there was little objection when he was elected first President of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949, and none at all when he was re-elected with an overwhelming majority five years later.

Today a debate is taking place over whether Karl Carstens, Speaker of the Bundestag, should stand for the highest office in the state next year because in 1940, at the age of 26, he was a member of the Nazi party. What has happened in the last 16 years?

Before the public had time to form an opinion on this issue, President Walter Scheel let it be known that he too had been a member of the party – from 1942, when he was a 23-year-old soldier.

President Scheel said he no longer knew whether he had applied for membership. His membership, as was the practice at the time, was not in force while he was on military service.

DIE ZEIT

The same applied in the case of Carstens. Walter Scheel could hardly have presented the nation with a greater surprise.

The office of President is the highest in this country, though it is far from being the most powerful. Yet we often consider it the most important in that we apply the strictest standards to it. Does this have consequences for Scheel and Carstens? There are important reasons for saying yes.

On the one hand the public's aversion to going back too far into the past and finding nothing but nominal identification with the Third Reich or formal membership of the Nazi party and nothing shameful or criminal has increased.

On the other hand, the threshold of sensibility in public discussion of these matters is lower than in the 50s and 60s. Heinrich Lübke, came through unscathed when the news came out ten years ago that he had built concentration camp barracks. Today he would not escape.

One of the many issues in this country is the renewal of the old discussion on whether too much indulgence was not shown towards former Nazis.

Kurt Schumacher, resistance fighter and first post-war Social Democrat leader, fought with the full weight of his authority against countless misunderstandings and powerful pressure from abroad so that hundreds of thousands of former Waffen SS men should be allowed to live in peace and honour and come to terms with the world as long as they were not guilty of crimes.

To many who today apply rigorous moral standards this must sound like an appeal from another world.

But there are reasons for such rigorousness. Far too few of those involved in Nazi totalitarianism who then made names as democratic politicians had the courage to say, like Herbert Wehner: "I was wrong."

To the older generation the careers of Scheel and Carstensmust appear quite normal for the time. They know that not all of those who were not nominal members of the party were therefore very unsympathetic to the Nazi egime.

They also know that the pressure to conform in a dictatorship is enormous. People did not always succumb only to ensure physical or material security; often career and professional interests were stronger than political judgment and there seemed good reasons for at least outward conformity.

Who can judge? Mere formal memberhip by young people in Nazi organisations should not be considered more than a "redeemable" sin of youth, to use the vocabulary of the current debate on the Extremists Decree.

It would be hypocritical to condemn Scheel and Carstens. They joined the Nazi party almost 40 years ago. Since the end of the 40s they have been blameless democrats, have held the highest offices and achieved considerable things. This cannot simply become nothing overnight.

Their cases have nothing whatever in common with the Filbinger affair. Filbinger did not belong to a Nazi organisation but he acted like a Nazi as a naval judge.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and leader of the Opposition Helmut Kohl have good reason to say they are against another denazification. Carstens is the victim of political opponents, probably from his own party, who wanted to prevent his being nominated as a candidate for the presidency.

At the Christian Democrat party conference in Ludwigshafen, general secretary Geissler said the CDU/CSU majority would nominate and elect the President next year. When Carstens was then given a standing ovation, it looked as if he had been chosen by acclamation. But Kohl did not commit himself.

Whether the CDU leader is still determined that the debate on the presidential candidate should not start until early next year, or whether his reservations about the nomination of Carstens have increased is not yet clear.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Willy Brandt both support Walter Scheel unequivocally. It is therefore inexplicable why Carstens' candidacy should be considered a reprehensible intention and Scheel's re-election unobjectionable.

The question must also be asked why a former party member should be allowed to rise to the second highest office in the land but not to the highest. Were should the lines be drawn? After all, Kurt Georg Kiesinger, Chancellor of the Grand Coalition, was a member of the NSDAP.

Around the Cabinet table in 1966 sat a former member of the NSDAP, a onetime candidate for the SA, a former Social Democratic emigrant and a onetime communist: Karl Schiller and Gerhard Schröder, Willy Brand and Herbert Wehner. Chancellor Kiesinger and Minister of Intra-German Affairs Wehner symbolically shook hands after they had taken their oaths of office. This peace between men of such different political backgrounds as only German history before 1945 produced seemed to apply to the whole German people.

Today, too, there would be reasons for regarding these unexpected revelations by two prominent German politicians as reflections of our national fate and not drawing fundamental consequences from them. It is probably not coincidental that leading politicians say little on the subject. They do not want to create new rifts.

Then there is the fact that Scheel's impressive stature and extraordinary popularity were shown in the many statements of sympathy and support for him. Many, including *Die Zeit*, expressed the hope that he would remain in office next year.

But the CDU/CSU have committed themselves to putting up their own candidate, and they have a majority. Scheel only wanted to stand if he was sure of a majority. Let us not delude ourselves: the revelations have changed the presidential elections: everything is open.

During this pause we must become aware of the temporal connection which will, accidentally, occur between the presidential election and the debate on the statute of limitations for Nazi crimes. In this connection, the debate on the Nazi past of presidential candidates assumes greater importance.

Another point to be taken into account: the more the Federal Republic of Germany gains in political influence because of its economic power and military significance, the more it is going to be reminded by other nations of its past, of Treblinka and Auschwitz.

Certainly this country does not have to be over-sensitive to every criticism and every suspicion from abroad. These criticisms often serve only to distract from the internal problems of the countries concerned. But we cannot completely ignore what our well meaning neighbours think.

Finally, two-thirds of the people in this country were either children or not born when Hitler was in power. They will have to support major decisions and be able to identify with this state's highest representatives if they are not to be alienated from their state.

We cannot deny our history and we cannot wash our hands of it. But it would be better if the candidate for the office of President had no Nazi past at all. The parties should thing hard about this.

Kurt Becker

(Die Zeit, 17 November 1978)

Europarliament

Continued from page 2

recent Western European democracies Germany and Italy.

The outgoing European Parliament may recently have indicated a way of tackling the problem. It demonstratively exceeded its rights in setting the ceiling of the EEC budget by calling for an increase in regional fund estimates from DM1,600m to DM2,600m.

The Council of Ministers was most upset, the richer member-countries claiming that the EEC summit had laid down regional fund allocations for years to come.

But European MPs, led by French Socialist Georges Spénale, were undismayed. The European Council, as the summit is known, did not exist by the terms of the Treaty of Rome, they said, so it was not a valid constitutional body.

Britain, Ireland and Italy, the poorer EEC members, were all in favour of the European Parliament. They stand to gain most from any increase in regional fund estimates.

Oddly enough they then agreed to allow the European Council to work out a solution at its next meeting on 4 and 5 December.

The European Council is thus the body that will eventually decide what extra powers are to be granted the European Parliament.

National parliaments would then have no option but to retify them. The problem will be to make them realise that they have long ceased to have any control over the Council of Ministers, which effectively legislates for the EEC.

But it will first be up to the newly-elected European MPs to show, by vigilance and criticism, that they are able to keep the Council of Ministers in check.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 November 1978)

Denazification now over – Schmidt

Chancellor Schmidt has spoken out strongly against "a new denazification" in the Federal Republic of Germany 33 years after the end of the war.

Referring to discussion of the Nazi party membership of leading politicians, Herr Schmidt told the Foreign Press Club in Bonn that even the three Western Allies did not condemn anyone for nominal membership of the party.

Herr Schmidt said there was until the end of 1979 to resolve the question of a statute of limitations for Nazi crimes. The current statute of limitations only came into effect when investigations were started or renewed.

This meant that if the present law remained in force, anyone caught in 1979 could only reckon with the expiry of the statute of limitations in 2009.

The Chancellor appealed to other countries to try to find Nazi criminals.

Referring to remembrance ceremonies for *Reichskristallnacht*, he said Germans would have to concern ourselves with the problem of Auschwitz until the next century. He could not accept that some people "apply different criteria to themselves than to us." In the Nazi era three now independent states were involved, he said, in an obvious reference to the GDR and Austria.

Herr Schmidt was strongly critical of some foreign reports on the application of the Extremists Decree and the so-called *Berufsverbote* in the Federal Republic of Germany. The country would not be tempted into "cracking nuts with sledgehammers."

On the other hand, he was against the public service employing "screaming idiots" who tried to suppress other opinions at political meetings, something which was also the practice in other countries in West and East.

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 15 November 1978)

■ SECURITY

Federal Intelligence Service battles to improve image

There are people in the Federal Republic of Germany uncharitable enough to speculate that if the *Bundesnachrichtendienst* (Federal Intelligence Service) ceased to exist nobody would notice the difference.

This is not, however, the majority opinion, which is that the world being what it is, this country needs an intelligence service. And intelligence services being what they are, blunders are bound to occur from time to time.

There has been no shortage of blunders in the history of the Federal Intelligence Service (BND). And more attention has been focussed on these blunders than on its not inconsiderable achievements, which include the news that Israel was planning a surprise attack on Egypt five days before it occurred in 1967; the prediction in 1968 that the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia would not develop into an attack on Nato; the early warning to the Bonn government about riots among dock workers in Danzig; the prediction – 75 per cent probability – in the autumn of 1973 that the Arab oil embargo would end in summer 1974 at the latest.

But what use was this kind of information? Not much. And when the information from Pullach could have been useful, it all too often got lost in the Bonn machinery, as in the case of the warning about employing Günter Guillaume in the Chancellor's Office.

The blunders were of a completely different order. They touched the very nerve of the intelligence service, or rather of the constitution.

The "company," which had its roots in the Gehlen organisation which enjoyed US protection, was an excellent intelligence gathering unit in the Cold War years. Then KGB agent Felfe, whose cover was blown in 1961, spied out its innermost secrets, and this paralysed it for a long time.

Most of the information from the communist world after that was third-rate. Even today the BND has not completely recovered from the psychological and organisational effects of the blow.

In the past ten years what has been achieved has taken a great deal of effort. Other scandals, from the suicide of vice-president Wendtland, the strange sacking of head of evaluation Von Ahlen, right up to the discovery of spy Heidrun Hofer, have not had the same effect as the Felfe affair but have nonetheless made deep wounds.

It was even worse that the BND inflicted deep wounds on the state, the state's own view of itself and the Federal Republic of Germany's *raison d'etat.*

This began under Gehlen, who used the foreign intelligence service more and more for spying at home. He had journalists recruited to report on their conversations with prominent figures for rates of between DM1,500 and DM15,000 a month; he had "snoop-dossiers" compiled on West German politicians and statesmen of all political persuasions (he Jesuitically described these as "special files"); he had the Social Democrats systematically spied on. Gehlen's eagerness to be not only omniscient but omnipotent was almost Fouche-like.

This spirit persisted even after Gehlen's career ended. Then his successor Gerhard Wessel remedied matters in a number of important respects. He put an end to the childish playing at Indians which Gehlen considered to be the essence of his craft. He put a stop to the "organised disorganisation" of the service by a rigorous reform.

In making his changes he had the support of the annihilating Mercker report, commissioned by Karl Carstens while still secretary of state in the Chancellor's Office under Kiesinger. This report anticipated Horst Ehmke's description of the BND as being in a "desolate state."

While Wessel was in office, the Federal Accounts Committee was given better opportunities to look into the BND's finances, a limited form of co-determination in accordance with the law on personnel representation was introduced (of course a personnel committee cannot decide whether an agent should be transferred), and members of the secret service were even allowed to join trade unions.

The Pullach service had its structure brought almost into line with that of the ordinary public service – though it did not take on social democratic colours as a result.

The Federal Intelligence Service was also more effective under second president Wessel, at least according to Bonn departments which request information from the BND – the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chancellor's Office.

In terms of the nature, volume and the quality of its work, the "company", with its estimated staff of 6,000 and its annual budget of over DM150 million, produces better work than it did ten years ago. Other friendly services are not as cautious as in the past over the BND, despite reports to the contrary. The Allies are particularly impressed by the BND's electronic information gathering system.

On the other hand even under Gerhard Wessel the BND still has not quite good rid of the old *Freikorps* mentality, the belief that in our democracy the secret service can operate without paying undue attention to politics, the laws and the Basic Law. The Traube case was a bad reversion to the old days, and the use of bugging devices was a clear offence against the constitution and the service's own purpose ("the gathering and evaluation of information from abroad which is of importance to the government of the Federal Republic of Germany.")

And even if it is true that a high-ranking civil servant gave the go-ahead for the illegal aid given to the Office for the Protection of the Constitution (the internal security service) without realising the political explosiveness of his move, it is equally true to say that anger in Pullach about public criticism was greater than the service's willingness to reflect on what it had done wrong.

A scandal in which one service helps another is also at the back of the BND practice, revealed in *Stern* magazine, of opening sacks of letters from the East and of listening in to telephone calls.

Admittedly this is legal under the G-10 law, though the outsider would have to have exact knowledge to judge whether the information thus gathered about the movement of East Bloc forces justified the suspension of the privacy of letters and telephone calls on such a vast scale. This is the only case, according to the law, in which such actions can be justified ("the gathering of information about facts, knowledge of which is necessary to find out about and meet the danger of an armed attack on the Federal Republic of Germany.")

It is in all cases illegal to open mail addressed *to* the East. It is also illegal to pass on information and documents to Military Counter-Intelligence or to the Office for the Protection of the Constitution (the G-10 law "may not be used to the disadvantage of persons" unless there are strong grounds for believing that someone is "planning, committing or has committed high treason, treason or crimes against the defence of the nation.")

Here again the tendency to do a favour for another secret service was stronger than loyalty to the Basic Law.

The next BND boss, Klaus Kinkel, has a reputation for knowing what is opportune, political acumen and a strong awareness of what is constitutional. He will need all these qualities in the difficult post. The price of security is vigilance – vigilance not only towards the potential enemy but also of the danger that the secret services may betray and even pervert the character of the state they serve.

Theo Sommer

(Die Zeit, 24 November 1978)

Escape gangs

Continued from page 3

terial Committee summoned after the US complaint yielded no results.

If the elimination of the business is not to be left entirely to East German security forces or to the Western powers concerned about the transit routes, the Bonn government will have to take convincing action. And this is the light in which Egon Franke's alert must be seen.

Walter Osten

(Welt der Arbeit, 23 November 1978)

Genscher aide to head Bonn's secret world

The month-long tug of war about the presidency of the Federal Intelligence Service (BND) is over. Klaus Kinkel, 42, a close colleague of FDP leader Genscher for many years, will take over from General Wessel at the end of this year.

The appointment of Kinkel, now head of the planning staff in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is not a complete surprise. There has been criticism recently that with Wessel's retirement looming the Chancellor's Office still had not nominated a successor. Dr Richard Meier, 50, generally considered the ideal candidate, was not allowed by Interior Minister Baum to leave his post as President of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution.

The Chancellor's Office then said that the appointment of a senior diplomat as BND boss would be good for the service's image. Nato ambassador Rolf Pauls turned the job down and Berndt Von Staden, German ambassador in New York was equally unwilling to accept the post.

There had been talk in recent weeks of Kinkel being appointed FDP general secretary. When the FDP annual conference voted Verheugen nto this post, Genscher proposed Kindel as BND head. Secretary of state in the Chancellor's Office Schüler gratefully accepted the suggestion.

Kinkel's Bonn career has been an unusual one. The son of a doctor from Metzingen in the Reutlingen district, Kinkel studied law in Tübingen and Bonn. In 1965 he joined the Office for the Protection of the Civilian Population, in 1966 worked temporarily in the Bablingen landrat office, and in 1968 joined the Ministry of the Interior, working in the department of public security.

Two years later he became Genscher's personal assistant. When Genscher moved to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he took Kinkel with him as head of staff. Kinkel has been director of the planning staff for 18 months.

Kinkel, a Swabian, is not a member of any party and has an excellent reputation among those familiar with the Bonn ministerial bureaucracy. His versatility, active intelligence and first-class organisational ability are highly thought of.

As head of the planning staff he proved he had exceptional analytical ability, something which will be of use to him in his new job in Pullach.



Klaus Kinkler: new keeper of the secrets. (Photo: dpa)

Genscher's Africa policy owes a great deal to Kinkel. As he has always been absolutely loyal to Genscher, the appointment as BND boss is regarded as strengthening the Foreign Minister's position within the Bonn coalition.

BND officials were critical of the fact that Kinkel had no secret service experience and would take a long time to get to know the job. As vice-president Dieter Blötz, a former SPD functionary, also has no secret service background, an increasing politicisation of the service is feared.

Horst Zimmermann

(Münchner Merkur, 18 November 1978)

RESOURCES

New Geneva bid for raw materials common fund

There is some movement again on the raw materials front, with a second attempt being made in Geneva by industrialised and Third World countries to create a common fund as part of an integrated raw materials programme.

This is an unprecedent project aimed at no less than a redistribution of the sources of affluence on a global scale and by peaceful means.

The emphasis lies on "peaceful" because there have always been armed conflicts on this issue.

The history of colonialism is the history of the redistribution of wealth. The attempt to correct the economic outcome of this power policy is, by the very nature of the issue and its historic background, not for the squeamish.

The new nations fond it less and less possible to accept the distribution results of a competitive system because they lack the natural prerequisite for such a system, that is, equality of the competitors.

The industrialised countries in East and West dictate terms of trade and prices of their finished products on world markets, while the raw material countries stand no chance of escaping the role of bargain basement operators. The Opec cartel only confirms this, and the widening North-South development gap clearly proves it.

There has never been a shortage of solemn avowals and promises by the Federal Republic of Germany to help narrow the North-South gap.

And, indeed, Germany with its liberal concept of open markets for the Third World has set a good example. By now we import more finished products from the Third World than we export to it.

But when it comes to government development aid, the world's second richest industrial nation lags embarrassingly. And the gap between promise and reality on the basic question of a global economic order is even larger.

During major raw materials conferences especially the Germans turned out to be avaricious, principle-obsessed hardliners, hiding behind Washington's broad back. The much vaunted Ugly American had his old-world double at the conferences.

As a result, Bonn's more conciliatory attitude at the Geneva raw materials talks is attributed more to following the Carter administration's more flexible style of negotiating than to the newly-found German virtue of approaching fundamental decisions more pragmatically.

The establishment of a common fund for financing buffer stocks and stabilising export earnings as called for by the raw materials producers of the Third World is such a fundamental decision.

Under the banner of market economy, the German delegates have repeatedly and unnecessarily adhered to the ideological tenet of "freedom or socialism" on a global scale and had to be pushed into making every single concession.

Their "never" to the common fund issue turned into a "no" and is now a "yes, if" — though they still fail to understand that this "if" is perfectly reconcilable with the principle of a market economy.

Bonn has for much too long acted like a victim of its own propaganda of an era when the Hallstein Doctrine replaced a developement plan and every demand by the Third World was misinterpreted as coming from "Radio Moscow".

It was primarily Bonn Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher — above all suspicion of being a fighter against the established system in a democratic cloak — who, concerned about Germany's image in the Third World, accelerated Bonn's decisions.

Meanwhile, it is also no longer a market economy champion who heads the Economic Affairs ministry and, riding on principles, opposes an integrated raw materials programme.

The brakes are now operated by the Finance ministry, which still opposes the programme on grounds of cost, resisting the meanwhile more conciliatory Third World nations.

Finance Minister Matthöfer still insists, on the priority of a raw materials agreement over a common fund.

Should the Bonn Cabinet in its guidelines for Germany's negotiating strategy in Geneva permit itself to oppose conciliation (a conciliation which would simply amount to espousing the EEC stand), it must face the fact that it will have to pay an even higher price, no longer to be counted in deutschmarks.

Rolf-Dietrich Schwartz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 14 November 1978)

Industrial countries' dependance on important raw materials in %

	EEC	Fed. Rep. of Germany	USA	Japan
Copper	96	100	15	83
Lead	70	87	15	70
Zinc	60	68	59	68
Tin	99	100	85	93
Bauxite (Aluminium)	60	100	87	100
Iron ore	59	93	27	99
Nickel	100	100	71	100
Tungsten	100	100	59	100

Figures: 1976

ZAHLENBILDER 835 340 © Erich Schmidt Verlag

Report puts priority on keeping up stocks

National and international policy on raw materials is again becoming the focal point of discussion in Bonn.

The Unctad talks on a common fund for financing raw materials agreements are to continue on 14 November, and the Cabinet is due to discuss raw materials supplies on 15 November, followed by a Bundestag debate on the 16th.

The state secretaries' committee for raw materials questions considers it desirable to increase stocks of sensitive raw materials in view of political risk.

A paper prepared for the Cabinet session recommends an increase in stockpiles without imposing intolerable burdens on business which does not have any adverse effect on competition, output, employment and supply.

In its paper, the committee says that fiscal measures are the best way of promoting these aims.

The 14-page document concludes: "As opposed to other possibilities, the fiscal solution would leave the stockpiles entirely under the jurisdiction of business. As a result, additional stocks could be achieved with less state assistance (diminished tax revenue) than would be the case with other models."

The Cabinet on 5 July instructed the six-man committee, chaired by state secretary Rohwedder of the Economic Affairs ministry, to present its report by 1 November. The report was to [illegible] on risks to raw materials supply and possible effects on the German economy and the type, extent and cost of state provisions to meet a crisis.

The most sensitive (and hence needing particular attention) raw materials are those which, if in short supply, would lead to a marked drop in output and employment because substitute supplies cannot be found in a short time, thus causing particularly grave risks. Among these are chromium, asbestos, manganese and tungsten (1977 import value: DM1.06 billion) and cobalt, platinum, antimony and rubber (DM 783 million).

Industry also considers vanadium, molybdenum, titanium and niobium/tantalite (DM624 million) as sensitive.

Total imports of these raw materials (in some cases in the form of ore) account for about DM2.5 billion.

Especially in view of the political problems in Southern Africa, shipments from Namibia, Rhodesia and South Africa must be considered endangered.

Yet import dependence on the region, especially for chromium, manganese, copper and asbestos, has ranged between 50 and 80 per cent.

The aim of the committee recommendations is to establish stockpiles for one year (at present they will last three months).

Both compulsory stocks, which lead to competition disadvantages on world markets, and government stockpiles, which cause supply problems in a crisis, are rejected by the committee.

Instead, it favours stockpiling contracts between Bonn and selected companies, or between Bonn and an umbrella organisation, or tax relief to offset additional cost.

Heinz Heck

(Die Welt, 13 November 1978)

Bonn promise to step-up foreign aid programme

Frankfurter Rundschau

The Federal Republic of Germany, accused by the OECD, the United States and Japan of giving inadequate financial aid to the poor and poorest Third World countries, told the Paris OECD conference of Ministers that it would considerably increase foreign aid.

According to state secretary Alwin Brück, the disproportionate increase of the development aid budget has already set the course for intensified government aid.

The Development Aid ministry's budget will be boosted by about 50 per cent by 1982, while the overall Bonn budget will increase by only 25 per cent.

Together with ten other lenders, Bonn is meanwhile following Sweden in advocating a complete moratorium on the debts of the poorest Third World countries.

With its 1.386 billion dollar foreign aid, Bonn last year ranked fourth after the USA (4.123) France (2.394) and Japan (1.421) in absolute terms, having provided only 0.27 per cent of GNP.

The OECD objective of 0.7 per cent of GNP for developement aid has so far only been achieved by Sweden (0.99), Holland (0.85) and Norway (0.82).

Together with the USA (0.22), Japan (0.21) and a few smaller countries, the Federal Republic ranked below the average of 0.31 per cent.

Even so, German foreign aid is not as little as it might seem.

The German delegation pointed out at the OECD conference that the non-European non-oil-producing developing countries achieved a DM2.7 billion surplus in their trade with Germany in 1977, corresponding to 0.23 per cent of German GNP.

Germany ranks second after the United States as a buyer of finished and semi-finished products from the Third World.

The high incidence of supply agreements and the stability of the deutschemark must be taken into account when assessing development aid.

In view of growing interdependence in the world economy, Bonn places particular importance on combating absolute poverty, which is the main objective of German development aid.

Increasing differences between the developing countries make it difficult to apply global strategies to all of them.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 November 1978)

BUSINESS

Electronics fair heralds age of the chip

The world's largest trade fair for electronic components is on again in Munich, serving as a meeting place for thousands of technicians, scientists and businessmen.

Though maligned and initially opposed, Electronica has become the Mecca of an industry without growth problems, an industry which stimulates the economy. This lends the two-yearly show an importance beyond that of a major trade fair, making it an event of great economic and social significance.

The tiny chips are lauded by some and damned by others. Those who praise them consider them a major element in stimulating growth and providing a better quality of living; others call them job killers.

The visitor to Electronica is confronted by a multitude of transitors, circuits, relays, coils, valves, photocells, and the star of the show, the integrated circuit. The age of microelectronics dawned with the inception of these chips.

It started in the early 60s when technicians succeeded in integratiing a complex of electronic components (such as transistors, resitors and capacitors, complete with their connections) on a single small slice of material — the chip.

Technology has meanwhile progressed to such an extent that it is possible to put up to 100,000 components on a single chip, and integration is going further, with the unit price falling.

No-one in this industry speaks of "limits of growth." Integrated circuits find new uses every day. The tiny chips store, compare and process data on a ever-larger scale.

It is no longer necessary to develop specific circuits for individual application. The customer can buy them blank and programme them for any purpose.

Equipped with a storage unit, they make a micro-computer.

Even at its highest level, mechanics cannot compete with chips. The office equipment and watchmaking industries clearly demonstrate how a highly developed technology evolved over centuries can become obsolete almost from one day to the next.

The springs, movements, cogs and the hundreds of tiny parts in watches or mechanical calculators which had to be painstakingly coordinated have been replaced by integrated circuits operating faster, more reliably and cheaper, requiring a fraction of the space.

The introduction of electronics in these two industries had two major consequences: the loss of many highly skilled jobs and the shift of creativity from factories to the research laboratories of the integrated circuit industry.

On one hand, jobs are being destroyed, but on the other new ones are created, though considerably fewer and requiring highly specialised training.

Many sceptics feel the increased use of electronics threatens even more jobs. But there are also those who tend to over-dramatise, wanting to convince the public that micro-electronics will have the same effect as the world-wide depression of the thirties. Atavistic fears of the new and unknown are being used against the new technology.

Technology has always met a certain suspicion, and every generation has to come to terms with it anew, unaided by cultural pessimists who view technical progress as a kind of *Götterdämmerung*.

This attitude is understandable considering the effects of technology on our lives and our environment.

But public discussion of micro-processors has taken on a grotesque form. There are those who cry "stop thief!" without knowing whether anything was stolen.

Worker's friend

Cooperation between Siemens of West Germany and Fujitsu Fanuc of Japan has produced this machine to put an end to many dangerous and monotonous production line jobs. The machine can do a number of tasks, including feeding other machines and changing tools. (Photo: Siemens)

Micro-processors threaten neither our lives nor our environment, and neither they nor their manufacture do any damage whatever.

Though they are responsible for job redundancies, they also create new jobs. In fact, skilled workers are so sought after that no redundant mechanic (in the broadest sense) has any trouble finding a new job.

A study by Bavaria's Economic Affairs ministry to coincide with Electronica shows that in many industries modern *electronics has helped secure jobs rather* than endanger them.

Jobs have become more secure because Germany's export-intensive industry needs the most modern technology to compete on international markets. Missing the boat technologically could have disastrous consequences.

Moreover, micro-electronics in its many applications have helped to improve the quality of products and services, thus creating demand.

Measuring devices presented at Electronica, for instance, by far outperform their mechanical predecessors. The new type of video recorder would never have been made without micro-processors because mechanical devices would take up to three times as much space and be prohibitively expensive.

Soon the new electronics will also conquer the automobile, making driving both easier and safer. Electronic devices will check exhaust fumes, prevent brake failure and monitor the distance to the next car.

The home, the world's greatest employer, has also been invaded by electronics. Laundering, dish-washing and cooking are [illegible] the dual burden of home and job for working women.

This clearly demonstrates the beneficial effects of micro-processors — more than any other technical development on all aspects of life.

Man is relieved of tedious routine work and enabled to use the time for more creative tasks and for leisure.

The aim is not for man to work more but to work less and more productively. This is one point which seems to have been overlooked in the heated discussion on automation.

Axel Schnorbus

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 November 1978)

Volkswagen has its eyes on computers

The Volkswagen balance sheet of 31 January 1977 shows liquid funds to the tune of DM3 billion even ofter DM900 million has been skimmed off by VW stockholders.

Financial Director Friedrich Thomée is determined to stay liquid in order to have funds whenever an opportunity to diversify and buy equities in industries outside the fickle automobile business presents itself.

Speculation about VW participation in Gutehoffnungshütte, Klöckner-Humboldt-Deutz and Babcock having foundered on realities, it now seems certain that VW has found something custom-made: Nixdorf Computer AG in Paderborn.

The new VW participation is to be in an industry entirely different and subject to other economic conditions, says a VW spokesman. It will provide good growth opportunities, be future-orientated and independent of economic cycles.

Nixdorf, Germany's only major computer manufacturer, is the obvious choice.

The VW board is expected to pass the deal on 24 November, the estimated cost being DM500 million.

But by buying a Nixdorf equity Herr Thomée would only have placed a fraction of his liquid funds. Speculation over what will happen to the rest of the money continues.

(Deutsche Zeitung, 17 November 1978)

Kuwait takes share of Korf steel

It has just been learned that for a long time Kuwait has had a share in the holding companies of German steel manufacturer Willy Korf.

The Kuwait Finance ministry holds 30 per cent of the Korf holding companies in Germany and the United States.

According to Herr Korf, 49, he has ploughed the money back into the business.

As a result of Willy Korf's idea of a mini-steel mill and his sponge iron method as an alternative to traditional iron processes, the Korf group gained a remarkable position within the ailing steel industry.

Korf mills have remained unaffected by idle production capacities and structural weakness in the Western world's steel centres.

Originally an outsider on steel markets, the Korf group, at times faced by a price strategy from the big manufacturers aimed at pushing it out of the market, is now a force to be reckoned with.

Specialising in wire and construction steel, the five Korf mills in Kehl and Hamburg, Germany, Montrau near Paris and Georgetown and Beaumont, USA, now have a crude steel capacity of well over three million tons a year.

The group, with its global turnover of DM1.6 billion, has thus risen into the category of medium-sized steel mills.

Incidentally, Korf considers the term "ministeel mill" no longer applicable because the "minis" produce between 500,000 and 1,000,000 tons of crude steel a year.

Says Willy Korf: "The dominance of the mammoth mills with their blast furnaces and converters, making them producers of cheap bulk steel, is clearly over."

He points to the regressive development towards smaller units in the wake of structural changes.

The concept of medium-sized steel mills, Herr Korf says, would enable even developing countries to become steel producers without having to spend billions on conventional blast furnace mills. Their capacity would exceed developing country requirements.

The introduction of sponge iron, which has made steel mills independent of scrap with its price fluctuations by subjecting oxide ore to a reducing gas without melting, has provided the Korf Group with a strong second pillar.

The American Midrex process whereby iron ore is turned into sponge iron by this method was bought by Korf in 1974 and proved a winner, producing crude iron with more than 90 per cent Fe.

Ludwig Trabert

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 November 1978)

MOTORING

Armless driver's patent gets handicapped mobile

DIE WELT

Heidelberg safety technician Eberhard Franz has driven 380,000 km without an accident suice 1965. Unusual? Yes, because 42-year-old Franz had both arms amputated in 1956.

But Franz did not want to give up driving. With colleagues he spent nine years working on a system for armless drivers. In 1965 the first car was built, a Renault. It was passed as roadworthy by the German car-testing authorities and Franz's system, now patented, is being built into the VW Golf.

Franz's special unit costs between DM5,000 and DM8,000 to install. So far, 20 vehicles have been adapted and there are orders for another twenty. Production and installation is carried out by Brown, Boverie and Cie in Heidelberg.

In the cars everything, including, radio, warning lights and windscreen wipers, can be operated by foot or knee. Franz uses the VW Golf because it has an automatic safety belt system which can be fitted as an extra.

The car is steered by a plate operated by the left foot and adapted for the shoes of the driver. Steering is corrected by moving the steering pedal slightly forward or backwards. To park the foot turns the pedal.

This special construction does not change the basic way the car is operated. Once the steering pedal and brakes have taken out the car can be driven the usual way.

Franz's invention assumes even greater importance now that the victims of thalidomide are reaching the age where most of their peers are taking driving lessons.

For the handicapped, the car is more than an object of everyday use. Käthe Fischer-Helwig, who is responsible to the Cologne car-testing authorities for the physical examination of the handicapped, says: "Driving a car is the ideal means of integration into society."

Last year about 350 handicapped people were examined and 315 were given permission to take driving lessons.

The medical examination is the first hurdle the handicapped would-be driver has to take. The medical report is supplemented by a psychologist at the Cologne car-testing authority, says: "It is up to the doctor to decide. Up to now we have not barred anyone from taking driving lessons on psychological grounds."

After visiting the psychologist the handicapped person sees the technical expert, who explains the requirements to be met before a driving licence can be issued. "We explore all technical possibilities to help the handicapped person to drive," he says. "Thanks to vacuum brakes and automatic gears just about everything is possible these days."

Once the handicapped person has been given the go-ahead and his car has been redesigned according to the testing requirements, driving lessons can begin. Here no distinction is made between handicapped and normal candidates and there are no special questionnaires or tests.

For the handicapped person a driving licence is a kind of return ticket to society. A housewife who has been paralysed for the last five years says: "My life has changed a lot since I have been able to drive again. At last I can be independent, work, and feel I am part of society again. The main thing is that I am not a burden on my family if I want to travel somewhere."

According to the testing authority and Eberhard Franz, handicapped people drive as well as anyone else. Franz says: "We pay the same insurance premiums, so they obviously do not regard us as a higher safety risk." According to Franz, armless drivers do not need more lessons before taking the test.

The main difficulty is paying for the redesigning of the vehicle. A VW Golf with the Franz system can cost up to DM20,000. Subsidies are paid by professional associations (for those whose handicap is the result of an accident at work), to those with war injuries, by social offices and the Ministry of Labour.

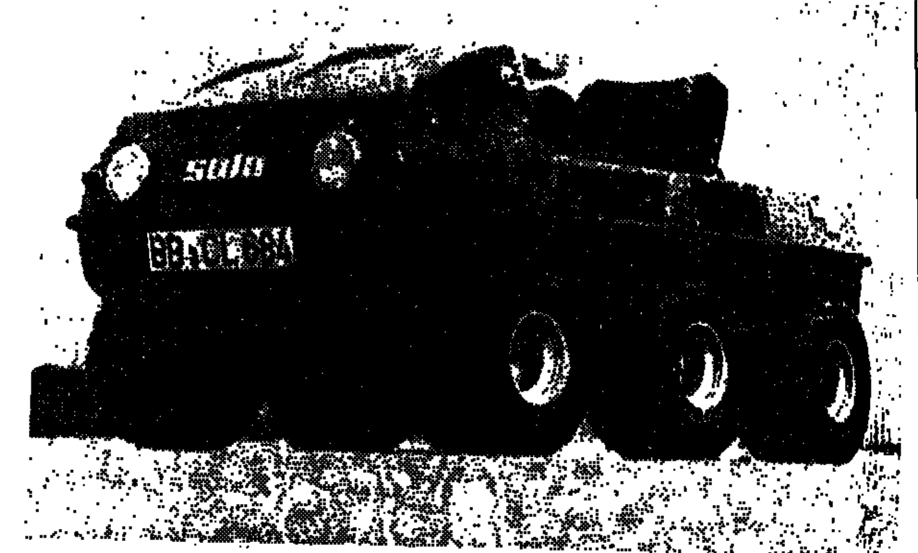
Hans-Helmut Schleifenbaum, chairman of the National Association of Parents of Physically Handicapped Children, complains that grants are only made when the handicapped person can show he needs a car for his work. "A car is obviously not regarded as necessary while they are learning a trade," he says.

Inventor Franz says: "The cost of the special elements cannot be reduced because they cannot be mass-produced. Practically all the parts are hand-made."

He adds: "The only real difficulty for me is when I am in a parking block alone and want to take out my parking ticket."

Walter CH. Wuttke

(Die Welt, 18 November 1978)



Go Solo anywhere

What this six-wheeler made in Sindelfingen, near Stuttgart, lacks in speed it makes up in versatility. It can negotiate steps, chug through swamps, and go up steep gradients. Its 430-cc engine only develops 20 DIN hp and reaches a top speed of 30mph, but the Solo 750 does 28mpg (25mpg/US). It is manufactured by a firm better known for mopeds and lawnmowers but fast making a name for itself all over the world. The Solo is steered by braking the wheels on either side and can turn on the spot. It has no gears and is accelerated by lever rather than by pedal. (Photo: Solo)

Centre driver is lifesaver says inventor

A metallic gold Ford Fiesta turns into the Pfaffenwald Ring, Stuttgart-Vaihingen. From the outside it looks like any one of the 150,000 Ford Fiesta models on West German roads, an ordinary two-door limousine.

There is just one important difference. The driver does not sit on the left or right: he sits in the middle.

This model is not the final version, according to its designer, Dr. Henning Gold, 39. The end-product will be a compact car just right for the space and safety needs of most car buyers. It will have a low petrol consumption, be light and easy to repair.

Dr. Gold, an engineer, began working on the project in 1974. He was looking for a vehicle designed for safety and economy. His analysis of demand and accident figures gave him his first ideas.

Accidents at crossings (28 per cent) top the list of collision accidents and 85 per cent of cars hit from the side have the front doors demolished. Dr. Gold's conclusion: "When I analysed these figures it was clear that the people involved were not injured because their cars were too small, but because they were sitting in the wrong place.

"This is underlined by the fact that 85 per cent of cars involved in such accidents had either one or two occupants."

Other figures support Gold's argument. In three-quarters of West German households there are three or fewer people. This does not tie in with the car industry's range of products: the majority of cars, from small to luxury, are five-seaters. Dr Gold says: "This does not meet a real but only an apparent demand. I consider my present idea to be technically relevant, but I admit there are psychological barriers."

It was difficult to get used to the new Fiesta with the steering wheel more than a step from the door. But Dr. Gold says: "It is not a real problem. There are plenty of good solutions."

The seat belt is what the builders are concentrating on at the moment. Now the belt is there more for the driver's lateral stability than for his safety in an accidents.

Once one has got used to it, the sitting position becomes more natural. It is a place of work which is often in the centre: on tractors, on most ships, on racing cars and in Starfighter jets.

Despite its size (356 cm by 157 cm) I felt comfortable in the car. I had plenty of elbow room, no-one blocked my view right or left, nobody's knee got in the way when I changed gear. The cold metal of the car door did not make me shiver and I soon got over the problem of feeling cramped, inevitable in a car this size.

I drove through narrow spaces between badly parket cars and found the prototype easy to steer and park. Stopping at the kerb was no problem either. Reversing into a parking space is not everyone's cup of tea, but with this car it was easier.

The driver's seos pairs of feet on either side of him, which means even two very big men have plenty of space. There is even room for a third passenger, but it means a loss of comfort. With three people the degres of comfort is more than can be attained in five-seater cars of about the same size.

At the end of the test drive, the Fiesta was parked in a busy street. The driver can choose which door to use. I choose the safe side — away from the traffic.

Dr Gold's five main aims are no different from those of most fevelopment engineers in the car industry. They all build cars which are as cheap as possible to produce and run. Accident damage should be cheaply repaired and passengers should have the best possible chance of surviving an accident. There must be an optimal relation between safety and driving comfort and the maximum speed should match the car's technical potential.

Dr Gold has one additional aim: the car should be as big as necessary. Here he has hit upon a trend which the industry is now beginning to follow.

Lutz Schilling

(Welt am Sonntag, 12 November 1978)

■ THE ARTS

An artistic celebration of marriage

Sociologists have predicted the death of marriage, more and more singles are discovering the joys of independence, yet artists, for so long suspected of way-out and Bohemian tastes, seem to be reverting to marital togetherness.

The Karlsruhe Künstlerverein is now holding an exhibition to demonstrate this trend. It concentrates on seven artist couples, most of whom even have marriage certificates. The exhibition's thorough documentation also looks at 12 other artistic marriages.

Michael Schwarz, who has soberly investigated this artistic behaviour which is both abnormal and normal, says there two factors involved. One is the increased self-confidence of women artists thanks to emancipation. They are no longer forced to exchange palette and paintbrush for pots and pans after marriage.

Then there are contemporary creative forms such as video-art and performance better done in pairs than alone. The typical forms of expression of male-female creativity depend on the interplay between these two factors.

There have, of course, often been liaisons between artists in the past. Such famous figures in the history of art as Paula and Otto Modersohn, Kandinsky and Gabriele Müller, Hannah Höch and Raoul Haussmann, Sophie Teuber and Hans Arp, Dorothea Tanning and Max Ernst shared table, bed and even studio.

But even where these liaisons led to important joint work, the creative achievements of the female partner were never really fully recognised. The case of Sonja and Robert Delannay is typical of the under-valuation of female creativity.

Three couples at the Karlsruhe exhibition prove that times have changed. Their complete harmony is evident from the fact that joint works in which the separate contributions are indistinguishable emerge.



Artistic togetherness: video-artists Ulay and Maria Abramowic spent 16 hours posing with their hair plaited together. The result is on show at an exhibition of the works of seven couples at the Karlsruhe Künstlerverein. (Photo: Katalog)

In the case of Hilla and Bernhard Becher, the work consists of cool photographs of blocks of flats, silos, gasometers, water towers and other industrial monuments seen as giant scupltures. The former graphic artist and the advertising photographer meet on the neutral ground of an anonymous medium in which it is easy to give up the claim to a distinctive artistic personality.

French couple Anne and Patrick Poirier do something similar. The two pseudoarcheologists with their magical-subjective miniature reconstructions of ancient sunken cities even exchange clothes to symbolise the closeness of their teamwork. This is a phenomenon which has only existed in the pictorial arts since the sixties.

Barbara and Michael Leisgen took their duties so seriously that every time they went for a walk they took a photograph every ten metres. They also recorded the first 365 days in the life of their daughter on film.

Video-artists Ulay and Maria Abramowic took symbiosis to the aesthetic extreme: they posed for 16 hours with their hair tied together.

Such harmony is not universal among artistic couples. Anna and Wolfgang Oppermann have their problems at the moment. The reason is that Wolfgang felt called upon to play the part of bread-winner and head of the family. which meant that he had to produce what the market wanted.

His wife, on the other hand, free of such constraints, could give full rein to the unmarketable private mythologies of her fantasy. At a recent exhibition an entire room was devoted to her work, while her husband Wolfgang had to sell his wares in a Kassel furniture shop. Here the dependence of the artist's wife is curiously identical with independence of the forces of the commercial art game.

In her autobiography Barbara Leisgen writes: "Two artists in love, that is always difficult." It cannot be so difficult if Peter Weibel voluntarily wears a leash and allows wife Valie Export to lead him on all fours through the streets of Vienna. The fact that this odd couple is still together is a sign of the lasting nature of marriages between artists. What art has put together let no man put asunder.

Wolf Schön

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 14 November 1978)

Fans rebel at too little Makeba

We had to wait three days for the highlight of this year's Berlin jazz festival: the encounter with the jazz coming from African cities today.

The main representative of this music was a man from South Africa who first tried out all forms of American and European music before returning to his roots — pianist and saxophonist Dollar Brand, who now goes by the name of Abdullah Ibrahim.

Some of the fascination of the Dollar Brand quartet's concert was lost as a result of the row in the Philharmonia that night: Miriam Makeba's performance was too short for her fans, who protested loudly. Later in the evening she gave a second concert.

This was unfortunate because the playing of Brand and Talib Gadr, his young flautist and alto saxophonist, with Brand and Qadr singing in Arabic accompanied only by Greg Brown on the bass guitar, contained all the essential elements of the Africa and Islamic traditions.

Brand and Makeba were appearing together for the first time in over 20 years, but they had time to rehearse only a few songs. The audience's anger when organiser George Gruntz announced this was predictable: all hell broke loose. Several hundred people stormed the stage after the concert and not even another Makeba solo could persuade them to leave.

While George Gruntz was talking to the indignant crowd outside and no-one knew if it would be possible to hold the second concert, the most exciting performance of the whole festival was taking place behind closed doors in a rehearsal room of the Philharmonia.

It is terrible pity that the people who the following day were to show so little appreciation of Fela Anikulapo Kuti and his group — whom Gruntz had announced as the stars of the festival — were not there. They would then have understood what this music means to the people of Africa: self-confidence, joy in life and political commitment. A mass of whirling, smiling dancers included a good dozen of the 27 women whom Fela married in January this year. He intends to stand for the Nigerian presidency next year.

When Fela Anikulapo Kuti and African 70 performed the following day there was no trace of this spontaneity, exuberance and self-confidence. He pranced around the stage with a cigarette in his hand as symbol of his authority like Kenyatta with his fly-swatter and the audience had little patience with his political statements. Their displeasure was only appeased when English drummer Ginger Baker, who now lives in Africa, joined the drummers in Fela's group. Before this not even the most exotic dances by six of Fela's wives had been able to satisfy them.

The Berlin jazz public did not exactly cover itself in glory on the two days devoted to African music. It seems here jazz is just a consumer item like any other. There was no willingness to consider its sociological function, or the role it played in the United States in emancipating the underprivileged.

The man who was booed at the Philharmonia has no difficulty in attracting crowd of 120,000 and over in his home country. In this respect the Berlin jazz festival showed that it is we and not the Africans who need educating.

Michael Stone

(Deutsche Zeitung, 10 November 1978)

Filmmakers send message of despair

Twelve years after its foundation, the Berlin Film and Television Academy has published a collection of comments by former students on what has become of them entitled: *Hoffnung als Prinzip* (Hope as a Principle.)

After reading this moving and rather depressing document, one cannot help wondering where the authors got the courage to choose the title in view of the picture that emerges.

There is very little talk of hope in the 51 answers to questionnaires sent to 112 academy graduates.

Academy director Heinz Rathsack explains in his preface that the poll was meant to be a contribution to discussion of the younger generation of filmmakers (not to be confused with the filmmakers generally referred to under the heading "young German film". They are mainly considerably older).

The vast majority of those who replied gave detailed answers to the seven questions asked by Malte Ludin and Helene Schwarz on behalf of the academy. The reaction to question four (How do you judge the production climate in this country at the moment? Is it favourable to the production of the kind of films you would like to make?) is particularly revealing.

A 32-year-old author and director wrote back saying laconically: "There are no film of the kind I would like to make." And this despite the fact that she is quite successful. Like most of her fellow-graduates, her filmmaking experience has been confined to the television.

The question about the production climate has been answered. For those who conform, who accept external and, even worse, interiorised pressures in order to earn money and play with the material of film and thus keep fit, the climate can be very good.

But these clever, adaptable and undemanding types are only — one is tempted to say fortunately — a small minority. The rest think differently. What worries most of them is what one describes as "the frightened climate in this country." For them the production climate is "bad", "terrible", "unfavourable", "very dodgy" and "lousy."

Another filmmaker observed ironically that television producers had the role of air conditioners: "Hot projects are reduced to a 'balanced' temperature." The same person says: "This doesn't suit me at all." Like many of his colleagues he now draws unemployment benefits. What disturbs him most, he says, is the erosion of democratic rights and the influence of ex-Nazis and neo-Nazis.

One filmmaker who graduated from the academy nine years ago has taken a decision which is liberating for him, depressing for the reader: "Since the end of last year I have wanted to have nothing more to do with the illusory world of film. I have felt much better since making this decision."

One recurring complaint is that there are no possibilities of financing films by young, unknown authors. There is no proper film industry.

One graduate asks: "Where are the experienced filmmakers whose work we could learn from?" It is characteristic and perhaps understandable that these filmmakers do not want the state to provide the finance. They demand an independent film fund, so that it is no longer necessary "to smuggle in controversial subjetcs with Brechtian cunning."

There are a few rays of light: the Junger Deutscher Film trust, which now has more power and influence, the ZDF (second TV channel) series called The Short TV Play, and work in cooperatives.

All in all, it is a depressing account. Yet it was necessary to give a clear and undistorted view of the sorry state of filmmaking in this country today.

Dietmar Schmidt

(Kieler Nachrichten, 18 November 1978)

■ CINEMA

Syberberg's Hitler: the man of darkness with a long history

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Hans Jürgen Syberberg's controversial film *Hitler, ein Film aus Deutschland* was made in West Germany but not shown publicly until this year's Frankfurt Book Fair because Syberberg could not find a distributor.

The film had its world premiere in London and was then shown in Paris. In both cities it was a huge success. Before this it had only been shown once in West Germany, at a symposium on Hitler in Aschaffenburg about six months ago.

Now Hamburg publishers Rowohlt are interested in showing the film in Germany. Syberberg says the idea is for a tour, partly financed by Rowohlt, during which his film will be shown in clubs, after which he will explain it.

Rowohlt has published a book on the film which includes a large amount of film material and is an indispensable aid to the understanding of the monumental work.

It is a film which deals with madness and the devil himself, lasting seven hours and making extreme demands on the viewer. It provokes disgust and hatred and reveals our habit of trying to find clear-cut solutions for everything, even for Hitler, as a comfortable myth of reason.

The film can certainly also be seen as a reaction to the documentary and monumental style of Joachim Fest's film on Hitler. It is a provocation to Hitler specialists, a circus demonstration of the end of western history and of its historical science.

Syberberg says only the artist can understand Hitler, by freely associating facts, hints, documents and interpretations. Hitler was not an accident of the Weimar Republic or the result of false alliance policies by the left. Nor was he the man of straw of the diabolically stupid Von Papen. Syberberg sees Hitler as a monster of German irrationalism, the product of more than 500 years of history, from mysticism to the Rembrandt German and Moeller van den Bruck, Hitler's tutor.

Hitler was the man of darkness who wanted to exterminate the light itself and everything connected with it — knowledge and enlightenment. He changed the purpose of language into its opposite, using it to blur and darken thought; he twisted and turned it and talked and talked as if his life depended on it.

He was no thinker, no seeker after truth and knowledge like Faust. Indeed, he was the opposite of Faust and that was why he was carried off in triumph from the stage — because he was so expert at playing the perfect villain, Mephistopheles or Beelzebub. He was no Nathan or Marquis de Posa.

This is a free and rough sketch of Syberberg's train of thought, his method, his tone and his interpretation. Hitler, according to Syberberg, is a German phenomenon. He did not just appear from the blue. He was the long-awaited German Messiah. The fact that he was no figure of light but a confused, chaotic thinker whose mind was full of notions of blood and soil is hardly surprising in view of his origins, of German irrationalism in which there is no logical and ordered sequence of thought.

Syberberg's Hitler is undoubtedly a demon. This demonic aspect of Hitler has often, for good reason, been rejected. Syberberg here is utterly consistent. He does not use this demonic aspect as a comfortable excuse, explaining Hitler in terms of a plague which could have befallen any land.

Historically, Hitler is a unique step backwards and so he can only be understood by looking back. Syberberg's Hitler is no empty monster but the brother of the masses. He calls him "brother Hitler."

His story is the Teutonic version of the American myth of the dishwasher who becomes a millionaire. Hitler is the millionaire of the masses. All the little man's wishes are projected on to this figure. He is the representative of the millions who voted for him and shouted for him. He is the promise of the new era, their era.

What about Hitler himself, as a man? Here Syberberg's interpretation is as clear as it is wayward. Hitler, son of petit bourgeois parents, who does not have what it takes to be an artist, who cannot realise his phantasies in the imaginary realm of art, decides to "do something" instead.

He becomes a political artist and tries his art out on the masses. In Faust the *talk of the homunculus is mere fantasy.* Hitler wants to realise this dream using politics as a means. Hitler the renewer, sprung from the spirit of irrationalism, a radical such as there had never been before, not, as is often claimed, a reactionary who wants to rebuild the Holy Roman Empire, but a man who wanted to root out the memory of Judaeo-Western history to pave the way for the New, the thoroughbred man: the solitary artist as the wild destroyer of history, as the purifier of blood.

Syberberg presents his view of Hitler by relying heavily on theatrical and scenic techniques. There is no action. It is a static film, with a seemingly endless sequence of images, a human comedy, Dante freely adapted for the circus. It is often crazy, wayward, abstruse and even dubions in many of its associations, some of them important — for example, in his forced comparisons between Hitler's time and ours.

But there are also scenes of undoubted brilliance: one showing Hitler as a painter painting an imaginary wall between himself and his public and yelling out: "The day is not far when I will ensure a painful order. I'll show all these plutocrats and elements who are pushing the German worker around what's what . . . painful order, I repeat, painful order."

Syberberg argues that because people had earlier denied his capacity for order, Hitler was determined to prove them wrong and he created it, mercilessly.

It could be argued that there is nothing new in all this. Charlie Chaplin discovered this aspect of Hitler long ago in the Great Dictator and the view of Hitler as artist manqué is familiar. Hitler as the "end product" of German irrationalism is a subject that has been dealth with in many university seminars.

Syberberg is not concerned with an original historical view of Hitler but with a method. Everything we know or even just supect about Hitler, how we interpret him and what Hitlerian elements there are within us — he wants to put all these things together in one picture. The kaleidoscope is Syberberg's instrument.

Hitler is a cinematic challenge for Syberberg. Hitler, the tamer of the masses and film fanatic. He used to watch at least one film and sometimes even two or three every evening until the war started. A figure such as this has to be brought into the context of film as a mass work of art.

Syberberg therefore constantly makes filmic allusions: we see a scene played in front of the reconstructed film set of Dr Caligari; we see the murderer from Fritz Lang's M wearing an SA uniform and playing out his impulsion to murder to physical excess. Syberberg says that Hollywood made the masses receptive to illusions, thus establishing a connection with Hitler.



The man of darkness speaks against a background of devastation: a scene from Jürgen Syberger's Hitler, a Film from Germany. (Photo: TMS-Film-Gesellschaft mbH)



Hans Jürgen Syberberg: Hitler as the product of 500 years of German irrationalism. (Photo: dpa)

An amazing film, full of ideas: Hitler as Nero, the vegetarian as a cannibal, eating dolls; the stuffed wolf with the swastika bandage. It is a film with some images as excessive as its length — Syberberg cannot reach the end; it is a form of mania.

The unbearable snivelling of Harry Baers, who played Ludwig II, is difficult to take. In a puppet play, Baers tells us that Ludwig II and not Hitler was the real reactionary, that he built his fantastic castles to protect himself against the new age of which Adolf Hitler was the furious protagonist, the demolisher of everything historical.

There are extravagant verbal excesses from Andre Heller, who takes it upon himself to settle a score with Hitler and sometimes uses an embarrassingly familiar tone in doing so.

This obsession with words, this garrulousness in excesses such as those of Baers and Heller, make the film seem dilettantish at times. But it is continually redeemed by magnificent moments. Heinz Schubert (who played the German Alf Garnett or Archie Bunker) as the snoring circus director and soft religious-mythic Himmler, the stadtholder of death who tells his masseur (played by Martin Sperr): "It's my day without meat today, I can't bear to see an animal suffering, I cannot bear blood."

In the most macabre and Dantesque section of the film Schubert plays Hitler standing up in his grave making a speech to posterity: "And remember how many people I gave a purpose in life, something worth fighting against . . . I gave them what they put into me."

Despite these fantastic and spectacular scenes, the film comes nearest to capturing the absurdity of reality in its documentary sections: when, for example, Hellmut Lange as Hitler's valet talks moodily and innocently about his master's babits: two cups of warm milk for breakfast, Leibnitz biscuits and a handful of half-bitter chocolate. The demon, gastritic at breakfast, literally trembling for his life, after picking up the papers and reports from the table in front of the door.

In the evenings the grand bourgeois pose. Often he stayed up until 2.30 in the mornings, being particularly despotic when there were women in the company.

This is a nightmare in which all that has been repressed seeks release with the force of the imagination. A film from Germany but perhaps not yet a film for Germany.

Karlheinz Fuchs

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 14 November 1978)

■ EDUCATION

Warning: don't let boys start school too early

KielerNachrichten

Twice as many boys as girls have problems learning to read and write, according to Günther Gutezeit, director of therapeutic pedagogy at the Kiel University pediatric clinic.

Parents and teachers should not to let boys begin school too early where there were doubts about learning ability, Herr Gutezeit said in an interview.

The problem has nothing to do with a lower average intelligence in boys. Reading und writing require the simultaneous use of widely differing abilities, among them language understanding and sequence of motions. And all these processes have to be coordinated.

Girls develop the individual abilities more evenly. The are better able to synchronise them, resulting in more dexterity, as for instance in the rhythmic movements of improvised dance.

The development of boys' abilities is less synchronous: Faster progress in one area is offset by delays in others. The general picture is of disharmony, but only at first.

Herr Gutezeit leaves it open whether these differences in development place boys at a disadvantage. More research is needed, he says.

Starting school is essentially more difficult for boys than for girls, and parents should be made aware of this and not expect too much.

The experience of failure resulting from beginning school too early increases school stress, causing a further delay in learning to read and write.

The child is not at fault; the cause is a wrong educational decision.

Herr Gutezeit says he mistrusts conventional tests to find out whether a child is ready for school with their 11 per cent ratio of error.

This corresponds (12 per cent) to the number of children found incapable of beginning school.

Says Günthe Gutezeit: "We could just as well send all kids of school age to school without subjecting them to tests. The error quota would be the same."

It is therefore important to take the personality of a child into account. Boys in particular should be sent to school a year later if there is even the slightest doubt about their ability to cope.

This applies even more to children who turn six around 30 June, the deadline for compulsory schooling. On application, children can even start school if they will turn six by 31 December. Herr Gutezeit calls for particular caution in these cases.

He sees proof of the generally accepted theory that boys find it more difficult than girls to cope in the early stages of schooling — a theory naturally based only on statistical averages — in the results of a recent test in Kiel, although the test served an entirely different purpose, to test cerebral functions in learning to read and write.

The test involved 271 children selected at random from 22 classes in various parts of Schleswig-Holstein.

Contrary to established views, the test showed that learning to read and write does not only involve one cerebral hemisphere but also the degree of cooperation with another, subordinate, centre in the other hemisphere.

Children wearing earphones were simultaneously fed different though similarly sounding words into both ears by a tape recorder.

The purpose was to establish which ear was better able to retain the information, a process called dichotic listening.

Right-handers favoured the right ear, establishing that their dominant linguistic centre was in the left cerebral hemisphere.

On average, children with an extreme "right ear" or an extreme "left ear" performed less well in reading and writing.

The best performance was found in children with a "medium right ear effect."

Although their linguistic centre is in the left hemisphere, they simultaneously activate the other hemisphere, achieving coordination.

This coordination, Herr Gutezeit says, is initially less developed in boys than in girls. Synchronisation among boys usually occurs at a later stage.

Since reading and writing also require sequence coordination, Herr Gutezeit concludes that the ability of the human brain to synchronise time sequence is in most instances also localised in the right cerebral hemisphere.

Measurements of brain impulses show, for instances, that the linguistic centre is barely active in dreams, activity resting with the other hemisphere which perceives images as a whole. This might explain the time confusion typical of many dreams.

This in turn leads to theoretical conclusions about the difficulties in learning to read and write of some left-handers.

They are frequently unable to organise the linguistic centre in the part which coordinates time sequences, causing additional difficulties or development retardation in speaking, reading and writing (although this cannot be generally applied to all left-handers.)

As a side result of the test in Schleswig-Holstein, it was possible to prove statistically that girls are ahead of boys in learning to read and write.

How can these research results benefit educational policy-makers? What is their significance for everyday classroom activities?

Herr Gutezeit, also a member of the Committee on Child-orientated Schools, established by Schleswig-Holstein Education Minister Walter Braun, says it should first be considered whether it is useful to make schooling compulsory for all children of six. Research shows that the ability to attend school usually appears between the ages of five and eight. As a result, the legal age range should be widened.

Another possibility he says, would be to help children of school age not yet capable of attending classes by providing intensive school preparation in kindergartens instead of simply delaying school entry. This would require kindergarten teachers trained to promote the learning of reading and writing.

Other conclusions from the test have already been used in Schleswig-Holstein, says Herr Gutezeut, including the regulation whereby the first and second school years are seen as one, providing the possibility of repeating the first year without the stigma of having failed.

What matters is to automate the reading and writing processes in the initial stages of schooling, which can be done by training.

The children must gain enough self-confidence to enable them to later use all their learning capacity for other subjects. This would mean giving preference to a smaller vocabulary of which the children can feel certain.

But the educational conclusions to be drawn must not begin with school. Pre-school training is even more important.

Herr Gutezeit appeals to parents to let children of pre-school age play as wide a variety of games as possible.

Toys and games directed at learning which promote only some abilities are of little use. What matters is to teach the coordination of various abilities because learning to read and write is a very complex procedure.

Of major importance is the training

Continued on page 13

Pressure over textbooks academy told

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Political controversy over school textbooks has led to insecurity and intimidation in the selection of textbooks and self-censorship by publishers, the Hamburg congress of the Catholic Academy has been told.

Textbooks have repeatedly been the subject of political controversy in the past few years, playing an important role in election campaigns.

The main issue has been bias over party politics, *weltanschauung* and morally objectionable passages.

The criticism by Lower Saxony's Education Minister Werner Remmers over terminology in textbooks was the rule rather than the exception, said Duisburg educationalist Gerd Stein, speaking on the theme Textbook and Politics.

"This criticism, which depicts these books as the vehicle of social change in terms of cultural revolution, which defames textbook authors as rebels wanting to change the established system, simultaneously calling for more alertness and stepped up controls, has had its effects," Herr Stein said.

The criticism was aimed particularly at Giessen University sociology and education Professor Wolfgang Hilligen, whose books have been banned in several Länder.

Today, Herr Stein said, the objective was no longer only to examine whether certain passages conflicted with the constitution.

Criticism of the market economy, for instance, under the heading "Limits of Growth", was already politically suspect in some Länder, although the constitution allowed the transfer of private property to the community.

Lower Saxony's former Education Minister Ernst Gottfried Mahrenholz, SPD, questioned whether guidelines and tests for constitutionality beyond the procedures of the educational bureaucracy were the answers.

The question was whether a decentralised procedure could provide alternatives. The objective would be to break down the anonymity of the present system, granting a greater say to teachers, parents and pupils.

The main objection was based on the concern that this would further "atomise" the already fragmented educational system.

Hans Speckhahn, recently retired state secretary in Lower Saxony's ministry of education, called for more uniform guidelines for textbooks. Something had to be done over the fact that each of the 11 Länder had different guidelines. Even within the same Land there were different regulations on terminology.

Authors and publishers, he said, were forced to go by the principle of the lowest common denominator to get their books admitted in as many Länder as possible.

Uniformity could make the straightjacket for authors and publishers of textbooks even tighter and the political scope even narrower, warned Bremen jurist Professor Dietze.

Karsten Plog

(Der Tagesspiegel, 14 November 1978)

■ RESEARCH

Electronic lab studies will help handicapped

The Fazit Foundation of non-profit-making publishing companies, chief shareholder in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, has since its foundation in 1959 supported scientific projects in all disciplines at universities in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin. Recently the foundation has been concentrating on medical projects, supporting in particular interdisciplinary research work not receiving subsidies from other sources. One recipient, Mainz University orthopaedic clinic and the Atomic Physics Institute, has been working on the highly successful project described here.

Biomechanics, the science of animal and human movement, has long been neglected, despite its great practical importance.

One reason is the complexity of even the simplest movements. Another is that it is an interdisciplinary area in which medical scientists, physicists and technicians have to cooperate.

Men and animals move by means of an apparatus consisting of joints, bones, muscles and sinews, a machine whose physical and biological laws have not been anything like adequately researched. The stresses and strains to which this machine is constantly subjected, depend on geometrical relations and the forces operating on the parts of the total structure.

In view of the complexity these relations it is not surprising that so little is known of the biomechanics of human movement. Up to now it has not been possible to register several consecutive steps and the muscular movements accompanying them synchronically and without distortion. To examine the movement of healthy and handicapped people we need accurate information on many facets, including the simultaneous registering of joint angles and of the accompanying muscular activities.

A reliable basis for surgical treatment of movement disorders or for the making of artificial limbs, especially artificial joints, can only be obtained using precise measurements.

Research has come a long towards this. At the University of Mainz an interdisciplinary research team led by Professor F. Brussatis, head of the orthopaedicclinic, and Professor G. Fricke, professor of experimental atomic physics, has built up the only electronic-optical movements observation laboratory in the field.

In the laboratory it is possible for the first time to register movements automatically and without interference from physiological movements over several sequences, and then to evaluate the results.

Before this elegant analytic technique could be evolved it was necessary to cooperate with an institute of physics with experience in measurement techniques. Researcher K. Chmillon played an important part in developing a measurement system in which the data are stored and analysed by a computer. This automisation, which dispenses with manual evaluation, means the data are reliable. The laboratory consists of a path 12 metres long, along which the volunteer walks, and a measuring unit running parallel to it a few metres away. The walking movements are analysed by sensors attached to the legs which measure the angle of upper and lower thigh 200 times a second using polarised light. An electronic device then transforms the light signals into angles. It is thus posible to find the characteristic angle of the hips and knees to the body's axis. So far volunteers have had difficulty keeping exactly in line with the measuring device and so movement analysis has been limited to a few steps or in sports medicine, to a few phases of a jump.

At Mainz, they have solved this far from trivial problem by using a video system. A moveable television camera mounted on rollers with the angle-measuring device automatically analyses the position of the volunteer and controls the complex calculation of the body's centre of gravity 50 times a second.

In this analysis, electromyograms (or muscular currents of nine muscle groups of the leg) are also measured. The muscular currents are led away and energized by electrodes.

With recordings taken from a special rubber sock for measuring standing and moving phases, they are passed on to the computer by a cable the volunteer drags behind him. Light barriers at the beginning and end of the path swith the automatic system on and off.

The Mainz laboratory computer with its high-performance data-storer (PDP 11/10) divides the entire sequence up into separate steps with accompanying angles and muscular currents. As there are variations in the length and duration of steps, the computer works out an average time per step.

The mean value is then worked out from the separate steps in the computer, which works out the time taken for the angle changes, the speed of the angle and the characteristic angle acceleration for the forces involved.

The results and the evaluations of the muscular currents are then written up in graphic form by [illegible] drawing machine, making assessment of results easier.

So far there have been 650 walk analyses of healthy and disabled volunteers. The later, suffering from hip and knee-joint problems, were examined by D. Steeger and H. Blumlein before their operations and after the implantation of artificial joints.

The main factor with knee joints is whether the wearer can move elastically. Up to know the over-high acceleration levels have meant that the gait is too stiff, putting too much strain on the artificial joints, can lead to loosening.

It has been shown that the relation of hip angle and knee angle is characteristic of a given gait. When this relation is drawn, a diagram is obtained on which it is easy to recognise changes of gait.

Tests showed that the basic gait was to a large extent normal after hip and knee joint operations, but that muscular activities were still seriously reduced even three months after the operation. Increased emphasis on muscle training in post-operational therapy seems necessary.

It is hoped that further research will clarify, for example, the relations between muscular activity and joint angles and that this will explain the interplay of moving and inhibiting muscle groups when we walk, an important factor, for instance, in keeping balance. The researchers also hope their work will lead to a improvement in methods of rehabilitation for spastic children.

The possibilities for research into the dynamics of human movement at the Mainz laboratory seem unlimited now that such a high level of automation has been reached.

Rainer Flöhl

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 November 1978)

Telephone for deaf

A deaf man learns how to use the Scriptophone, a plug-in portable teleprinter and keyboard designed in Münster which enables the deaf to telephone anyone, including other deaf people, who has a similar attachment. The user types his message, which is printed in teleprinter fashion at the other end. The social services, police, fire brigade and ambulance services in a number of German cities are to be equipped with the device, which could save lives because the deaf are often unable to speak clearly.

(Photo: Angela Kroecker)

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of motor dexterity, the ability to coordinate movements in terms of time.

Parents should read to their children as much as possible, talk to them and let them, as a game, do small household chores.

"Children want to imitate and participate, and this motivates them," says Günther Gutezeit.

Urs Stahl

(Kieler Nachrichten, 16 November 1978)

■ SOCIETY

Bonn demands firm figures before buying luxury guest house



Rudi Mehl, spokesman for the 4711 cologne fortune heirs, made a point of not driving his Jaguar or his Mercedes to his meeting with Bonn Housing Minister Dieter Haack. He went along in his VW Rabbit.

Even so, the Minister drove a tough bargain over Petersberg, the former hotel which the Bonn government wants to use as a guest house. Haack got the price for the building and 105 hectares of forest down to DM17.3 million — a drop of 33 per cent.

But the deal is not yet final, having to be approved by the Bundestag budget committee whose members have been hesitant becuse they consider the estimates for conversion and maintenance as too vague. The housing ministry has promised to provide firm figures shortly.

This will show that the cost depends on how much luxury and security is to be provided for foreign guests of state.

The experts in Department BII will have to come up with concrete figures, likely to range between DM50 and DM60 million, for the conversion and extension. Deputy department head Otto Casser, however, says that DM100 million (including the purchase price) would be an ideal figure.

The ideas on the future shape of the guest hourse are considerably firmer than those on cost. The protocol department of the Foreign Office has already presented plans.

There is to be a "royal suite", several small suites consisting of living room, bedroom and bathroom, and a number of bachelor flats for a total of 80 guests. A large banqueting room is required for parties of up to 400. Quarters for security officers and generous kitchen and pantry facilities are also needed, all of this taking up 5,000 square metres.

According to Land officials, the fact that the buildings have been declared a national monument and the surrounding land a nature reserve is not an insurmountable obstacle.

Architect Casser and his staff are not planning to change the outward appearance of the 1914 hotel built for the upper ten thousand. The only change will be a covered passage linking the guest house with the banqueting room in the former "Rhine Terraces". The coach shed is to be replaced by a modern administrative building.

No thought has as yet been given to interior decoration, but the security problem has been gone into thoroughly.

A report completed after an inspection by the Border Police and the Bonn security forces sees a conflict between the security of possibly endangered guests and the public's interest in using the viewing terrace. It also speaks of the necessity to reduce the restriction of public access to an absolute minimum.

Bullet-proof glass, TV cameras, sentry boxes and a helicipter landing pad are features taken for granted.

Even though the blueprint will depend on the outcome of a competition, it is already certain that there will be no half measures.

Compared with other capitals, Bonn's hotel business is underdeveloped, and officials are irked by having to accommodate retinues of state visitors in hotels scattered all over the city.

Says a Foreign Office spokesman: "We must finally have something presentable."

Claus Bienfait

(Die Welt, 9 November 1978)

Part-time isle needs pastor

Although the advertisement for a pastor for Langeness on the North Sea, which becomes an island at high tide, ran for several weeks, only one serious application was received.

Says the Rev. Hartwig Alsen of Husum: "A pastorship on a part-time island calls for very special qualifications. It is not always fun to alternately commute by horsecart or mailboat in any weather. Nor is this a job for romantics."

The mailboat is the only way the pastor of Langeness can get to the neighbouring islands of Oland and Gröde, part of his parish.

Confirmation lessons must be given even if there are only two children to be instructed, says Herr Alsen.

The advertisement spoke of a modern parish with shelter in case of tidal waves. The Langeness flock consists of 113 more or less faithful, plus 42 in Oland and 16 in Gröde.

But the community is increased considerably in the summer by vacationers from all parts of the country who, as Herr Alsen puts it, are very anxious to have a chat.

Herr Alsen said it was usually older ministers who were interested in such a parish since younger ones with children of school-going age find the post unsuitable.

The vacancy in Langeness arose when the Rev. Erik Wilkens retired a few months ago, having served for more than eight years.

ddp

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 November 1978)

Convicts break into business

Two inmates of Hamburg's Fuhlsbüttel Prison who had permission to leave the prison every day formed a "loan company" with two branch offices and cheated people out of DM10,000 in a few weeks.

One of them, a 32-year-old bank robber sentenced to six years, dressed like a bank manager every morning and took the train to Bremen, where the two men had their branch office.

In the afternoon, the banker took the train back to Hamburg, reporting to the prison in good time. He has since disappeared.

The second banker, aged 28 and sentenced for fraud, was in charge of the Hamburg branch. He is now back behind bars and receives no more passes.

The two crooks had a simple method: advertising in Bremen newspapers, they offered credits at an annual interest rate of three per cent — even to housewives and unemployed people.

They did not concern themselves with credit-worthiness, charging only a handling fee of DM35. This was followed by a letter saying that the loan was approved and asking for an additional fee of five per cent of the loan. The customers paid — but of course they never saw any money.

When they complained to the branch office heads they were kept at bay by various excuses.

The DM10,000 proceeds of the swindle enabled the two men to live in a style reserved for the rich, complete with wine, women and song.

The two crooks even applied for official registration of their company.

Thomas Wolgast

(Münchner Merkur, 8 November 1978)

Any old iron? And off goes DM60,000 worth

An 81-year old Swabian is bitterly rueing his luck of faith in the banks. When the currency was reformed in 1948 he started keeping his savings in the ashbox of an old iron stove. Little by little, he amassed DM60,000.

But his sister grew tired of the ancient stove and, unaware that it was a treasure trove, sold it to a junk dealer for DM50.

The police are now looking for the buyer, although they have very little to go on — he is tall and slim, aged about 45, and speaks Swabian dealect.

The buyer must have discovered the stove's secret very soon because he took it apart before taking it away.

The police have meanwhile gone into the background of the old man and his younger sister.

They have been living in their 30-square metre home, inherited from their parents, since war's end.

For the past 67 years the old man has been going to work ever day, never taking a day's sick leave, much less a holiday.

He still earns a living as an unskilled labourer in a small box factory, taking a sack of wood shavings and chips home for heating every day.

The stove, in the family for generations, was not used for heating but as a strongbox for his savings. Eventually the ashbox was filled to the brim with money. Then his sister decided to please him by selling the stove.

Neighbours say the two are so thrifty that they use only a single 25-watt bulb in their home to save electricity. The old man knows nothing but work and saving.

Still, he has not lost everything. He kept DM11,580 in an old coffee tin on the stove. The old woman tried to talk the junk dealer into buying it, but he refused.

Ernst Bauer/rtr

(Die Welt, 13 November 1978)

■ SPORT

Public money builds first golf course for everyman

Handelsblatt
WIRTSCHAFTS- UND FINANZZEITUNG

Mark Twain once observed that "golf is a spoilt walk". The Spanish cultural philosopher Ortega y Gasset was puzzled by the fact that "in the miraculous world of golf the activity of propelling a ball forward with the aid of a stick seems to be a sufficient justification for the fact that one is alive."

Even the South African professional Gary Player has described golf as a "game of disappointments." Player only seems free of depressions when collecting his cheques for winning. He is not only one of the best professional players but one of the top money-earners. In the German championships he was assured of DM 50,000 before he teed off.

Germany's most prominent golfer President Walter Scheel, on the other hand, symbolises a movement that has very little in common with the exclusive and elitist attitude of most golf clubs in this country.

President Scheel recently opened what, according to the German Golf Association, is the first public golf course financed from taxpayers' money, in the Lauswald in Düsseldorf.

The course covers 20 hectares and will be open even to those who have up to now regarded golf as a sport reserved for the rich and privileged few.

According to the current pricelist, adults will pay DM5 for 18 holes. A day ticket is DM10. Children and youths pay half.

Winston Churchill once said that golf clubs were utterly inadequate instruments for the purpose of getting too large a ball into too small a hole. At the Düsseldorf course, clubs can be hired. A golf professional will ensure that the course does not end up looking like a military training ground after it has been played on a few times.

Potential golfers hitherto been put off by the exclusiveness of this country's 141 golf clubs can thank former Düsseldorf sport official and now city treasurer Dr Edmund Landwers for the public course.

This committed administrator, who can think off-hand of 15 potential golf course sites near the Rhine, wrote an essay entitled "Create Public Golf Courses" some years ago, arguing that golf should become a sport for all. The reason: Landwers was angry that the pleasure of golf was being condemned as the privilege of the snobbish few.

This essay was sent around to 1,000 local councils and met with the discreet reserve so typical of many golf clubs and their 40,000 players. The first attempt to win over the citizens of Düsseldorf to the delights of golf failed because the indignant citizens of Oberkassel were not prepared to let the Rhine meadows, a favourite walk of many Düsseldorfers, be used for what they saw as the benefit of an elitist minority. Director of the Sports Office Theo Kels says: "There was almost a referendum on the issue."

Landwers only brought off his coup at the second attempt. The main reason he succeeded here was that he persuaded the parliamentary decision-making bodies to drop their objection that a public golf course would be too expensive. He pointed out that a public football pitch costs DM 400,000. The Düsseldorf golf links costs DM 100,000 less.

The German Golf Association in Wiesbaden considers it "inconceivable" that established golfers, who pay on average DM650 a year for membership of their golf clubs, would be indignant that the sport was now being made more accessible to a wider the public.

A GFA spokeswoman said: "We support initiatives such as that in Düsseldorf wherever we possibly can." A private golf club just outside Düsseldorf also offered its help:it has said it will lend the municipal authorities its lawnmover for the 12,000 sq metres of the Lausward course.

The reason for the golfing officials' approval of the Düsseldorf scheme is that there are spatial and financial limits to what the private golf clubs can do. Already some of the GFA's members do not have golf courses of their own — either because they cannot find a suitable piece of land or because they are reluctant to pay the costs of between DM 30,000 and DM 50,000 per hole for building a course. The majority of established clubs have restrictions on membership and long waiting lists. It seems doubtful that golf, like tennis, could be on the way to becoming a popular sport. The GFA says that as far as it knows no other town has yet decided to follow Düsseldorf's example. The only public golf course in this country is in Hamburg but it is privately run.



West Germany's first citizen and best-known golfer, President Walter Scheel, on the tee. President Scheel hit the drive to open the first public golf course paid for with taxpayers' money, in the Lauswald, near Stuttgart. (Photos: Sven Simon)

Things are very different in America, where top managers are often required by contract to play golf two afternoons a week. Manfred Barthel writes that English firms have difficulty persuading their top managers to come to the office at least two days a week instead of playing golf.

Whether this is why German golfers only play third or fourth fiddle in international golfing competitions is a matter of speculation. But there is no denying that the top 60 German professionals did not even earn what few top earners in the US creamed off — not including their advertising contracts.

Rolf Antrecht

(Handelsblatt, 16 November 1978)

Unlucky 29 for hottest handball run

The German handball team's record series of 28 games without defeat ended when they were beaten 27–17 by *four-time world champions Rumania in* Craiova recently.

Team manager Vlado Stenzel took it well: "It isn't the end of the world," he said. "Every run has to come to an end sometime." One of the team, Erhard Wunderlich from Gummersbach, said calmly: "The defeat came just at the right time."

The unbeaten run was the main topic of conversation in Rumania. A record of 28 games without loss would be unthinkable in international football, for example. Nothing even remotely like it has ever been achieved.

Even in handball, such a run is unusual, but by no means unknown. International games are far more frequent in handball because there are so many tournaments and double-headers. This record run was set up between 16 March 1977, when West Germany lost to Olympic gold medallists USSR in Böblingen, and 22 October 1978, when West Germany won the four-nation tournament held in this country.

It is much easier to maintain good form in an indoor handball team over such a period than in a football team, where the overall level of performance varies far more anyway, apart from the fact that international football matches are three times less frequent than handball internationals.

In Rumania there was confidence that the run could be extended after the 14-12 victory over the home side. But two days later the dream was over and the unbeaten record had become a mere statistic.

The reasons for the defeat are many. Nicole Nedeff, Rumania's manger in the years of their great successes, stressed the psychological aspect: "The German team was a little bit afraid of the figure 30."

The figure was certainly going around in most players' minds even though few were prepared to admit it. This meant the team used play-safe tactics and the self-imposed pressure to succeed led to uncertainty and at times to a kind of paralyse.

On the other hand, their opponents were also under acute psychological stress. New trainer Oprea Vlase needed to prove himself, Birtalan, capped 150 times for his country, needed to do well to prove he still had an Olympic future.

Birtalan's desperation gave him almost unnatural strength and he scored seven goals. The result was that the whole team followed his example and began to fight like terriers, in contrast to their usual cool and systematic style.

The Germans lacked the power and decisiveness to cope with this furious onslaught. Ehret, who scored five goals in all, only began to come into form *after the break. Freisler and Wunderlich* in the middle were ineffective and goalkeeper Hoffmann did not achieve the brilliant form of the first game in Bucharest — which no-one could reasonably have expected of him.



National team manager Vlado Stenzel: "Not the end of the world."

This meant the improved form of Klühspies, and Fey and Ohly's ability to adapt brought no results, even though the twice went into the lead (11–10 and 12–11).

In this decisive phase of the game there was no-one in the team or outside who could change direction. Deckarm, Spengler and perhaps also Meffle, none of whom played, could perhaps have brought new strenght to the German game.

Vlado Stenzel's achievements as national manager remain astonishing despite the end of the winning run. Within the last three years — to be precise since the dramatic Olympic qualifying game against the GDR in Karl-Marx Stadt — a second-rate handballing nation has been transformed into a world-beater, the team all the others want to beat.

The defeat in Craivo should be taken as a defeat on the day and no more. Manager Stenzel reacted calmly and indicated where his ambitions lay when he said of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow: "Intelligent players such as ours can live with their role as favourites."

Stenzel even managed to find a bright side to the end of his team's unbeaten run: "I was very pleased with the trip as a whole. In the second game I noted the errors we have now got to eliminate."

Here Stenzel must also include his own errors; the changes he made seemed to have no pattern behind them and had an effect on the smoothness of his team's game.

Uwe-Bernd Herchen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 November 1978)